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Kim et al.

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(54) **LIGHT GUIDE PLATE WITH LIGHT REFLECTION PATTERN**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **362/620**; 362/626; 362/559; 362/561; 349/65; 40/546

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See application file for complete search history.

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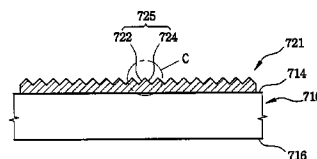
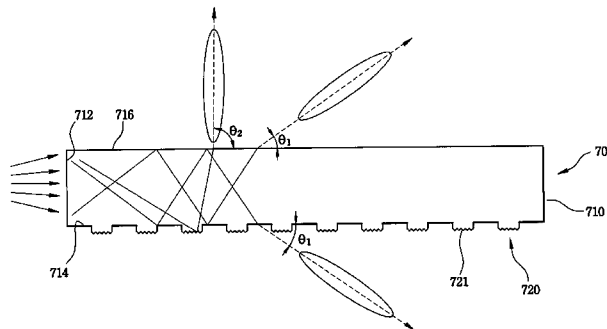
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A light guide plate includes a light incident surface for receiving light, first and second light emission surfaces for emitting light at a first light emission angle with respect to the first and second light emission surfaces, and a light reflection pattern formed on the first light emission surface, for reflecting the light toward the second light emission surface. The reflected light from the light reflection pattern exits the second light emission surface at a second light emission angle with respect to the second light emission surface, and the second light emission angle is larger than the first light emission angle. The light reflection pattern includes multiple dots each having a prism pattern on their surface and light reflecting surfaces elongated in a selected direction. The adjacent light reflecting surfaces meet each other at their elongated edges to form a prism shape.

23 Claims, 30 Drawing Sheets



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FIG. 1

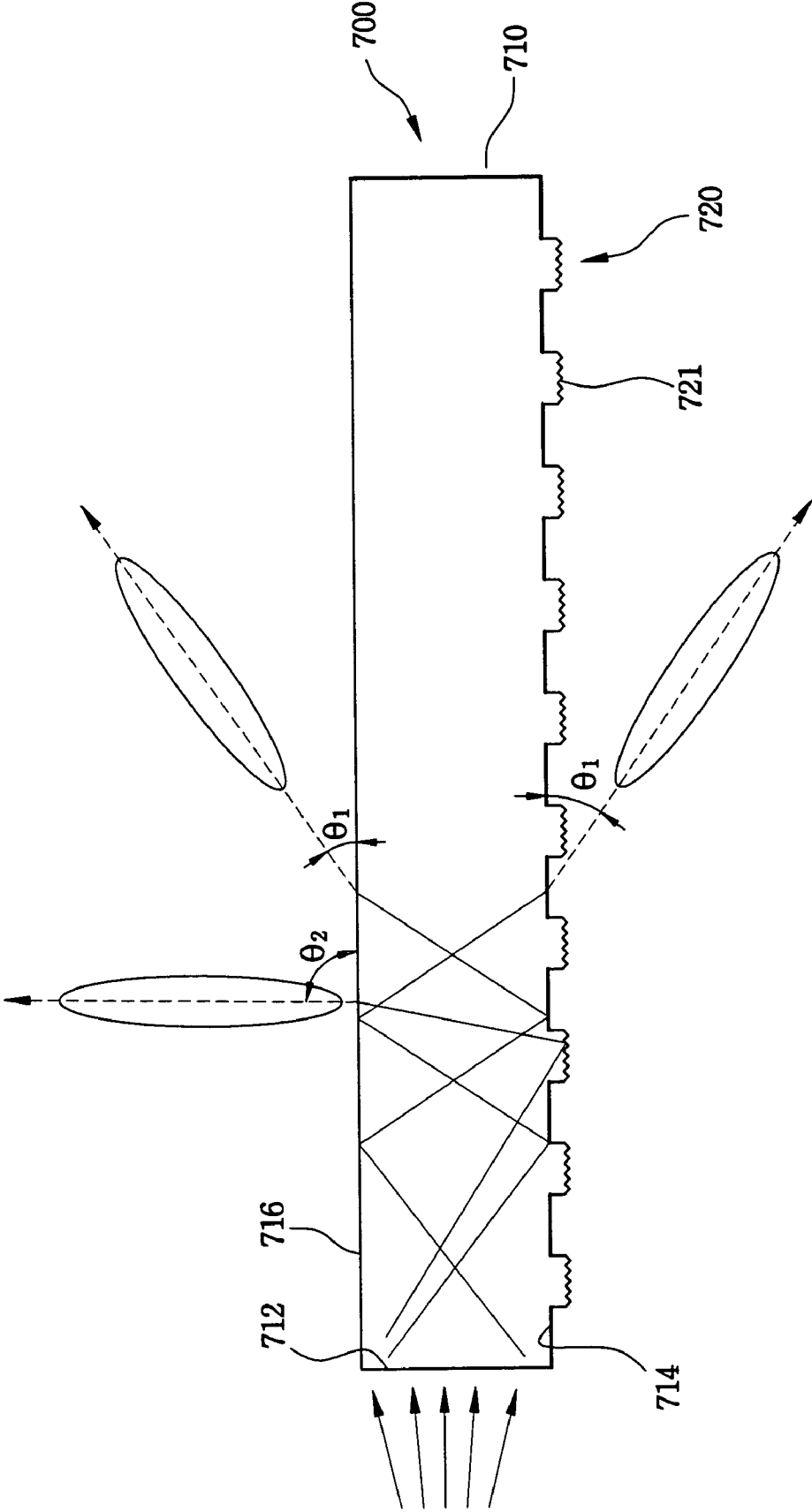


FIG. 2A

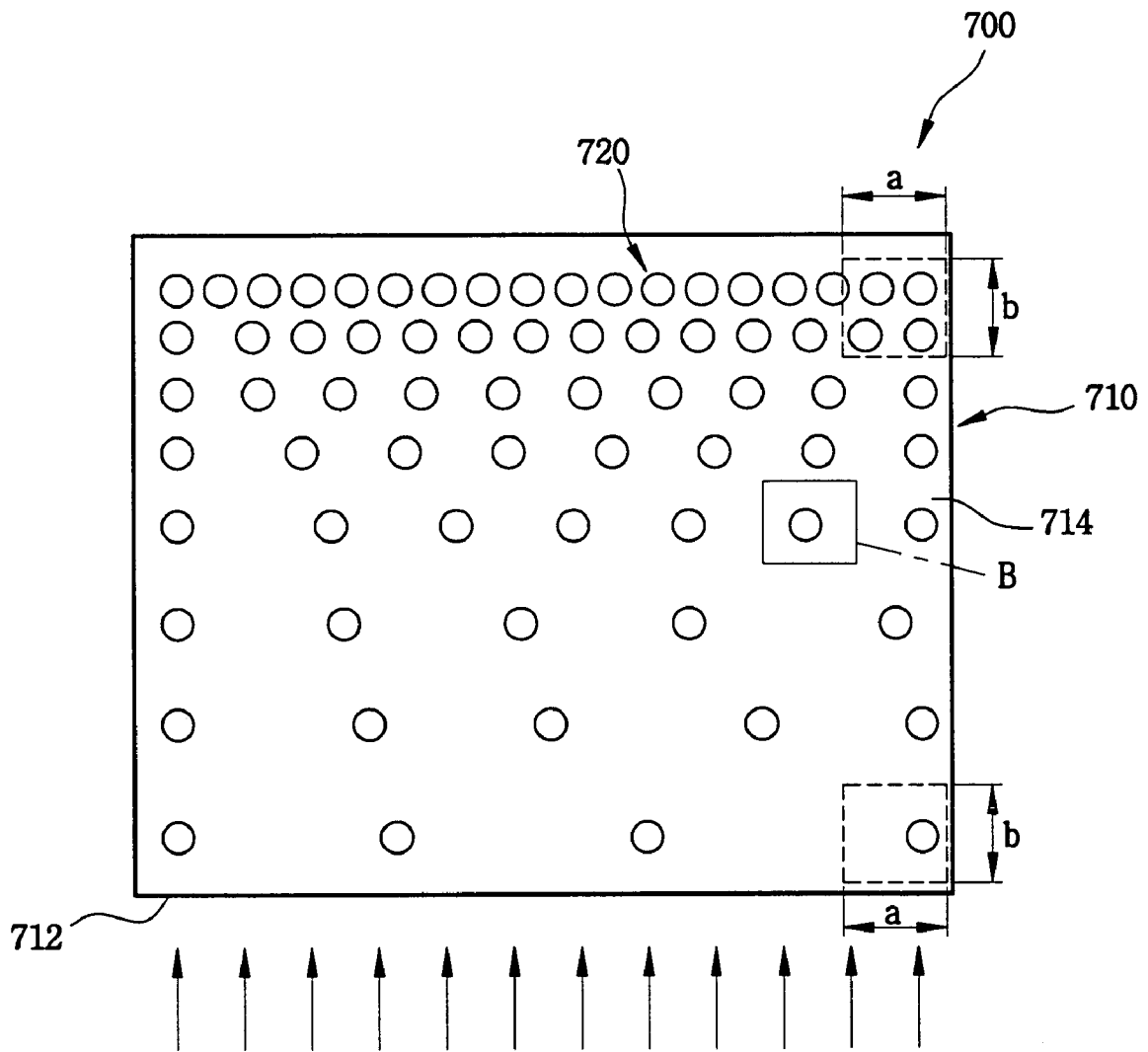


FIG. 2B

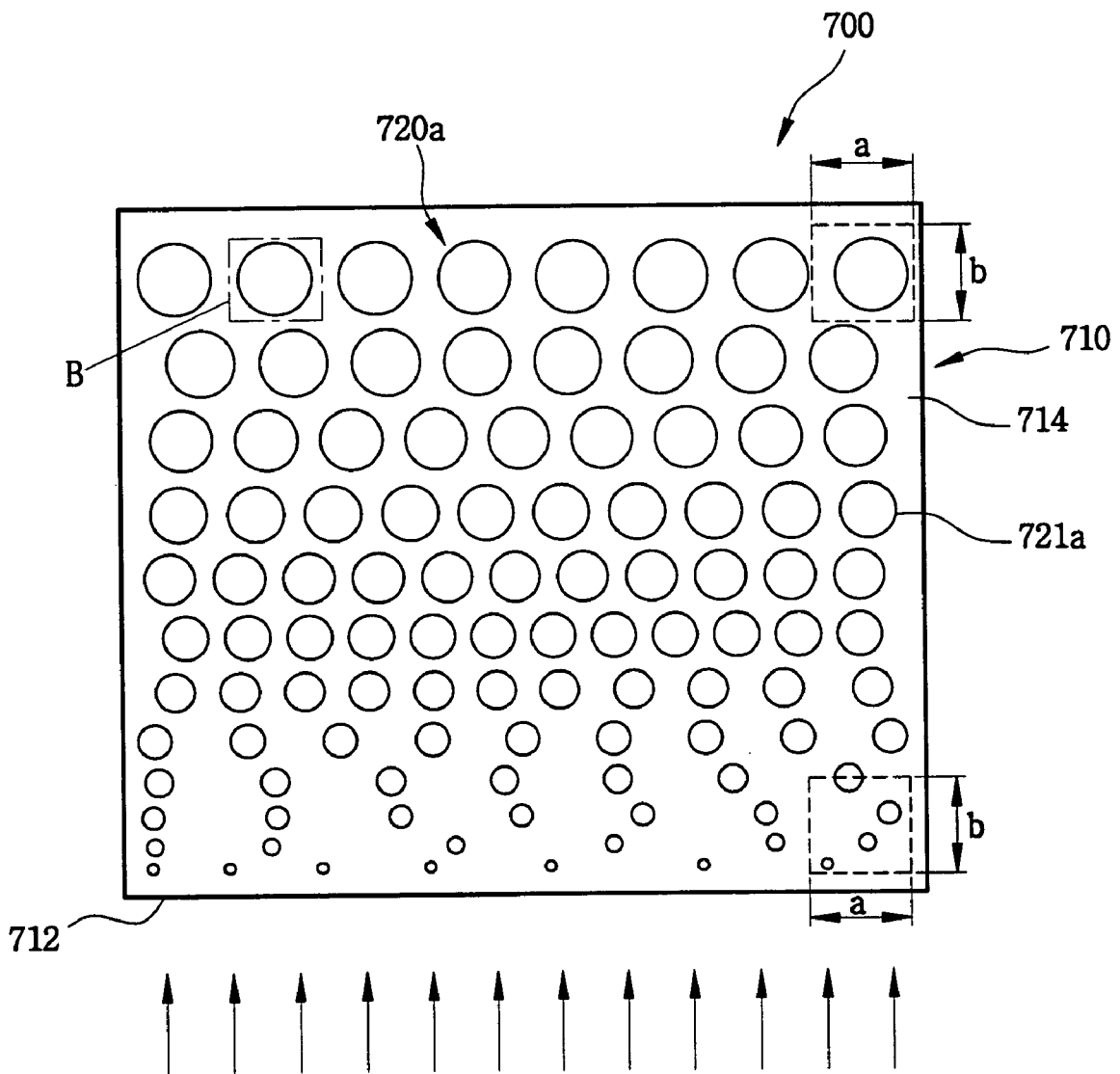


FIG. 3

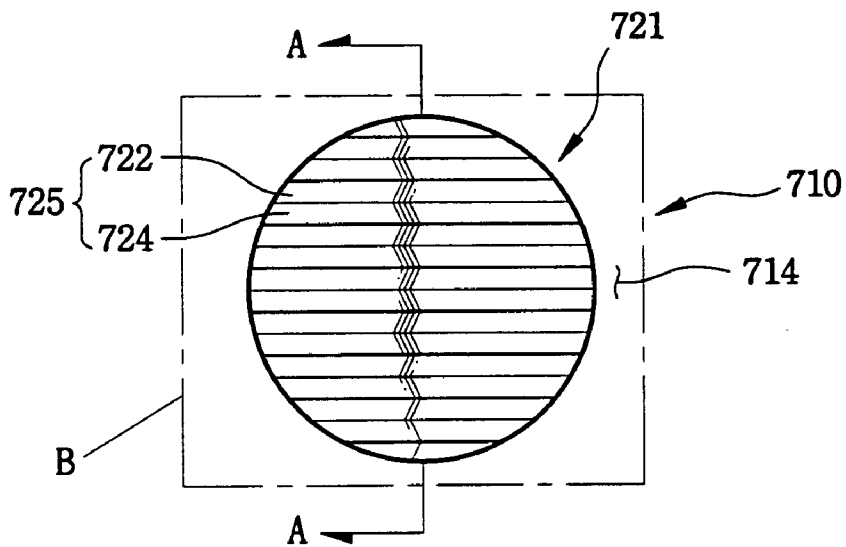


FIG. 4

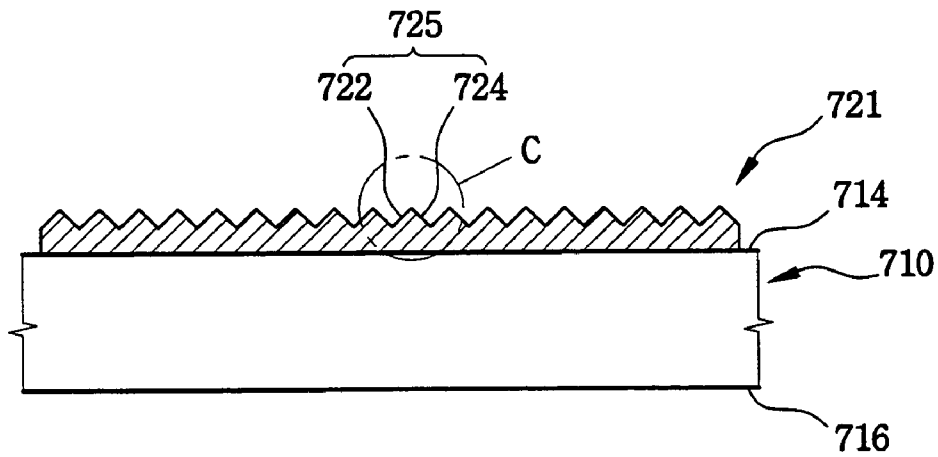


FIG. 5

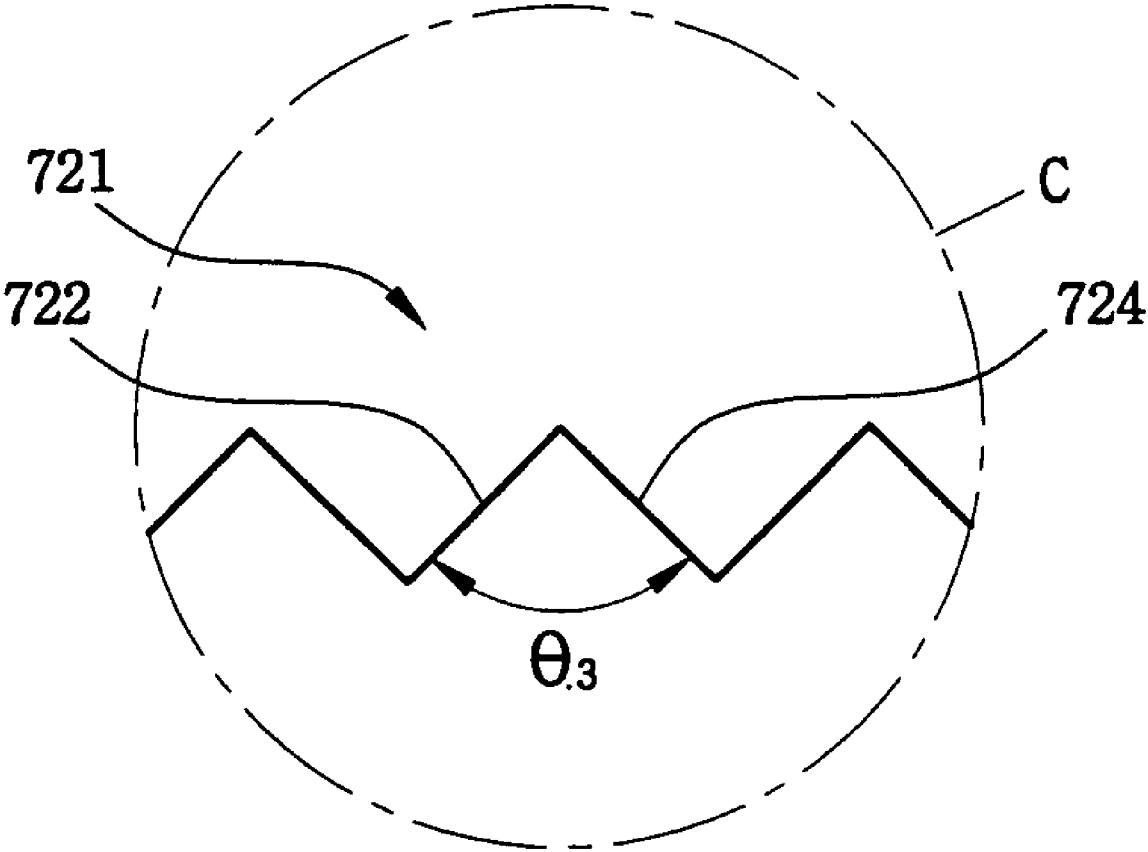


FIG. 6

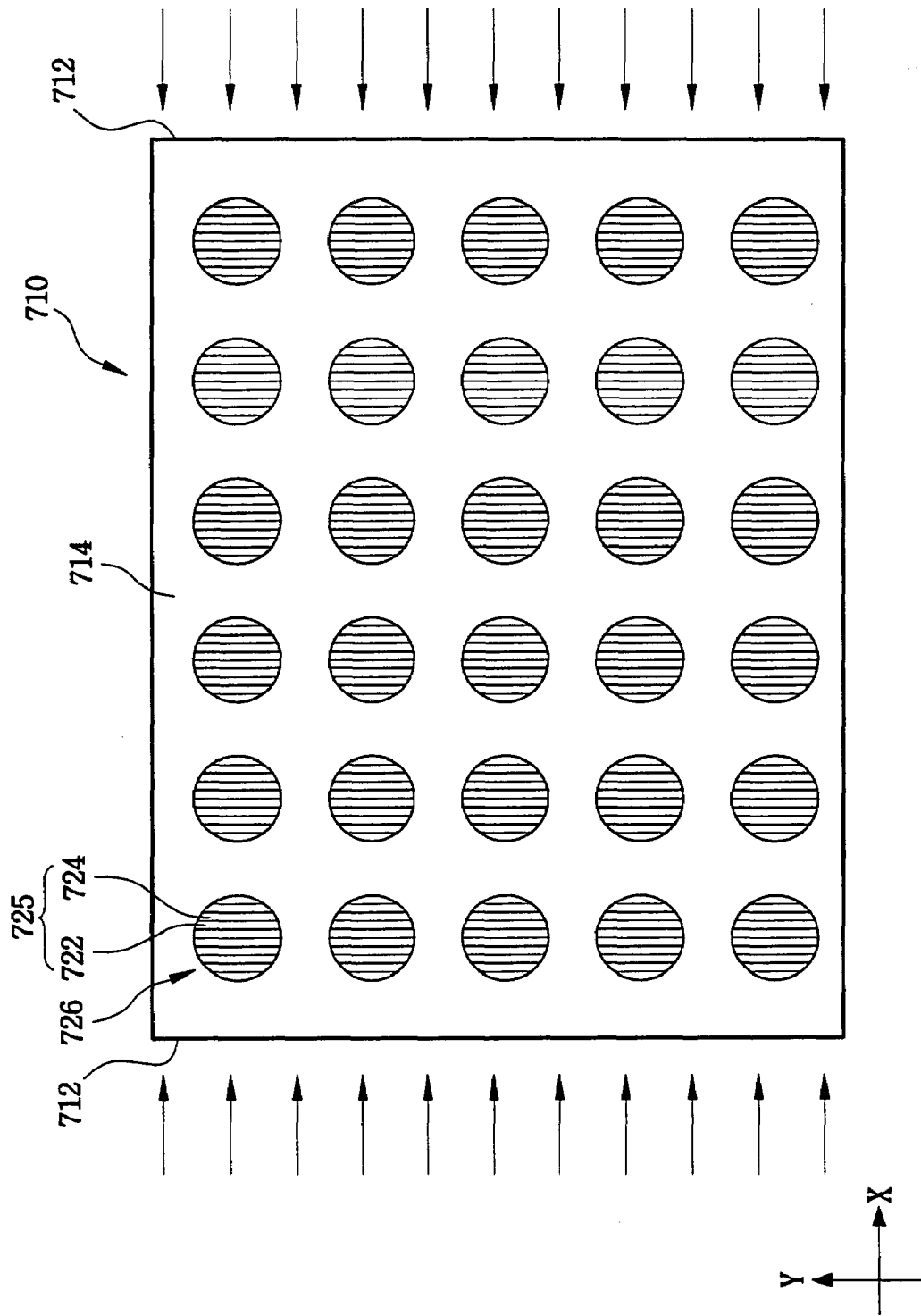


FIG. 7

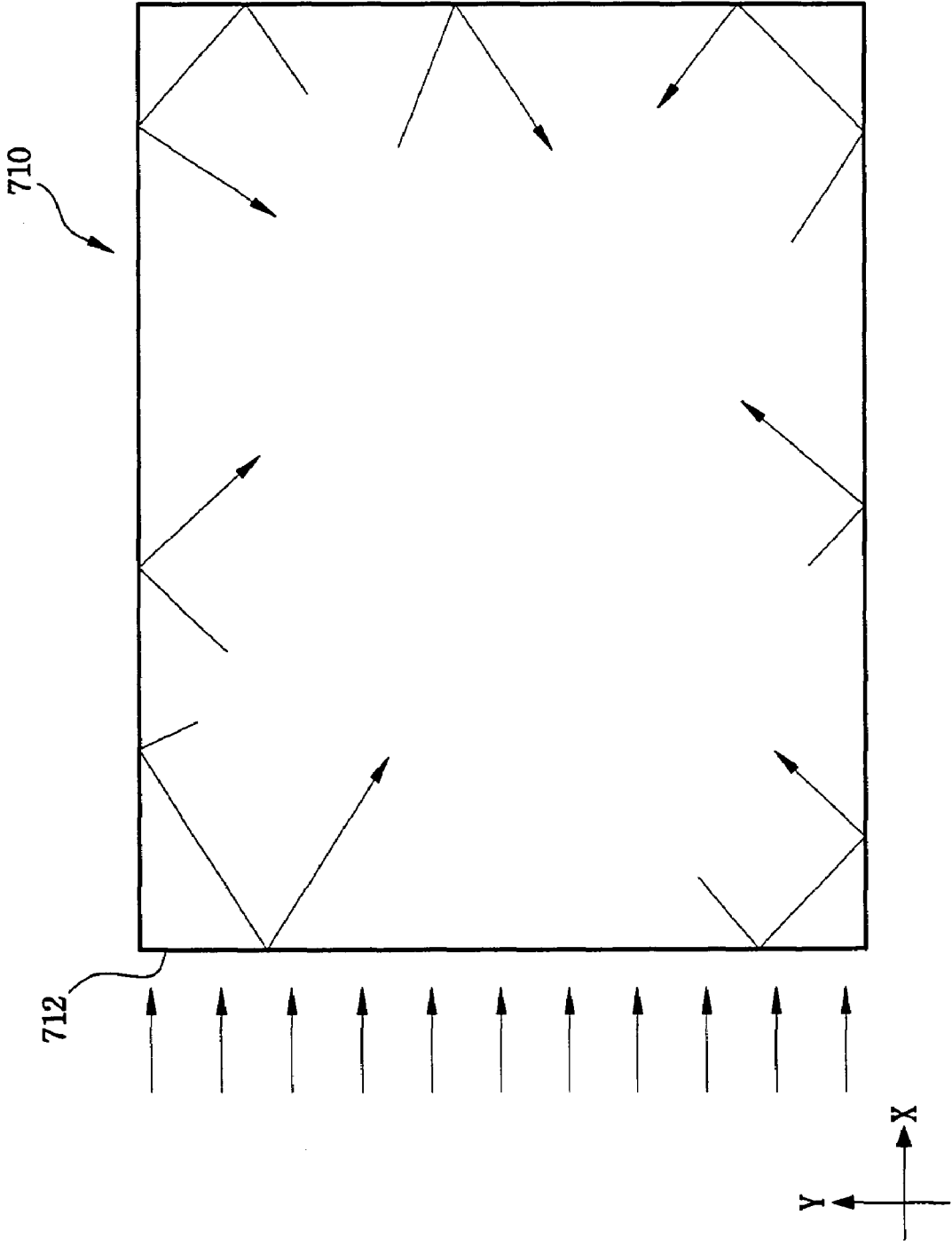


FIG. 8

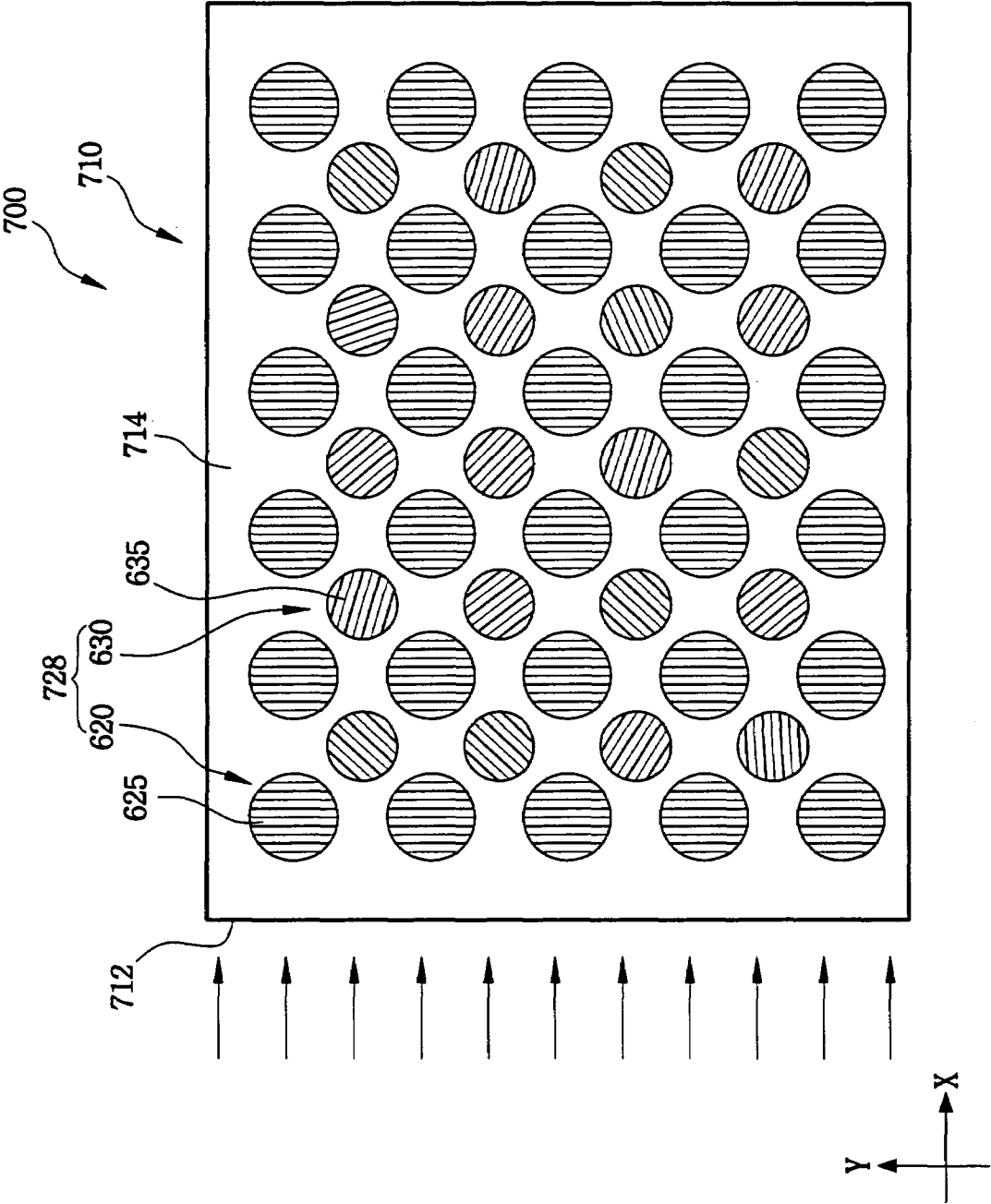


FIG. 9

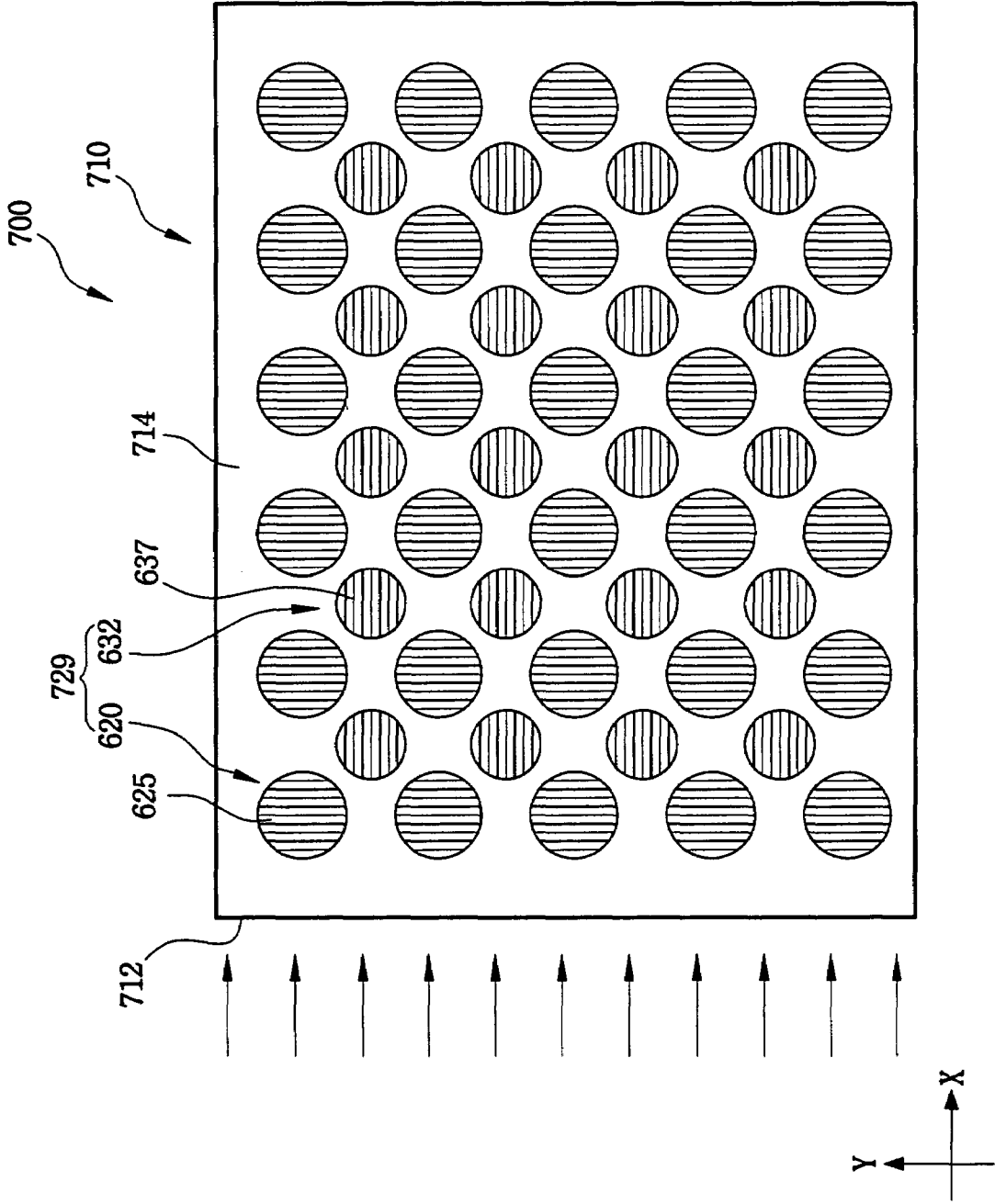


FIG. 10

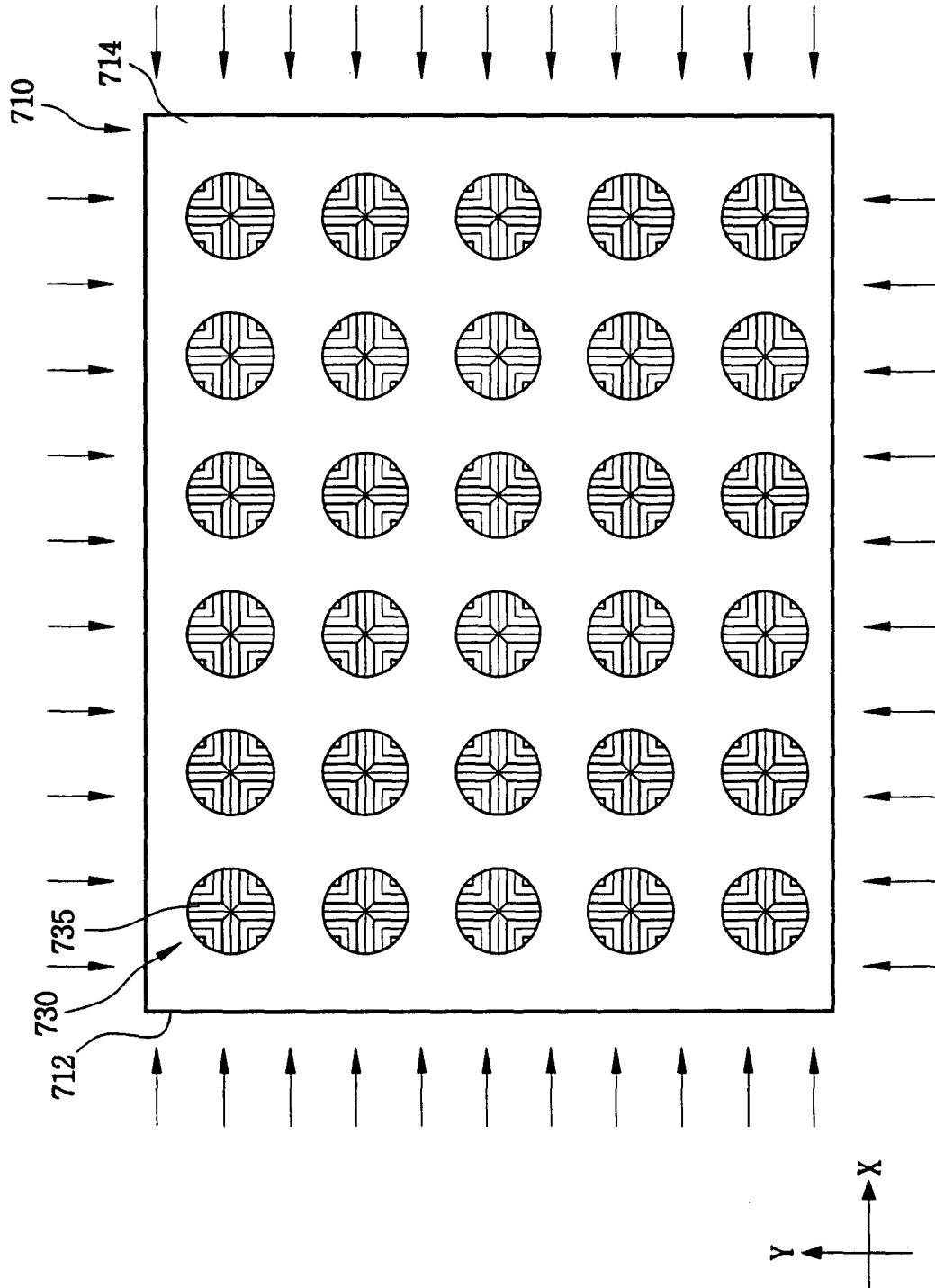


FIG. 11A

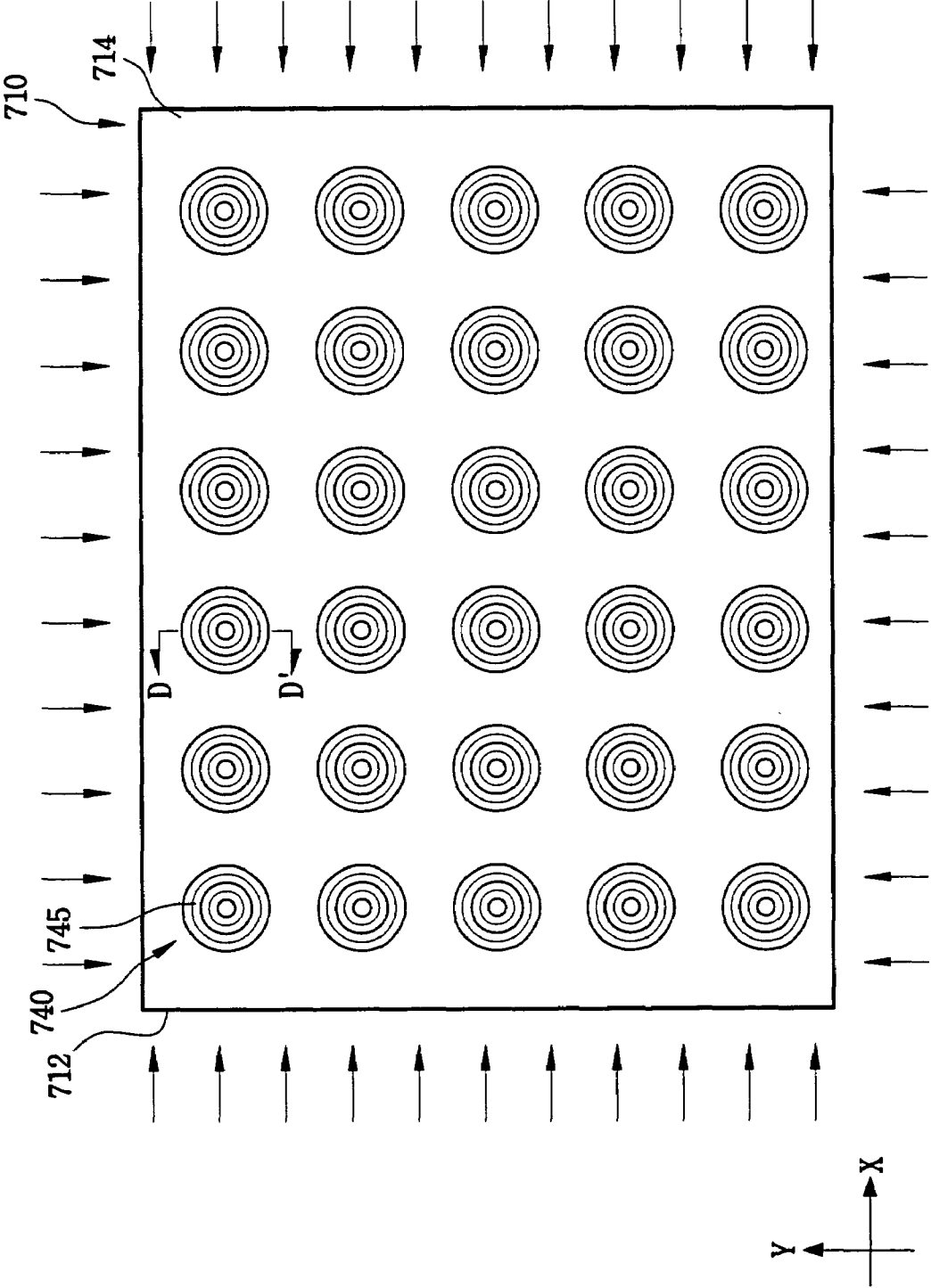


FIG. 11B

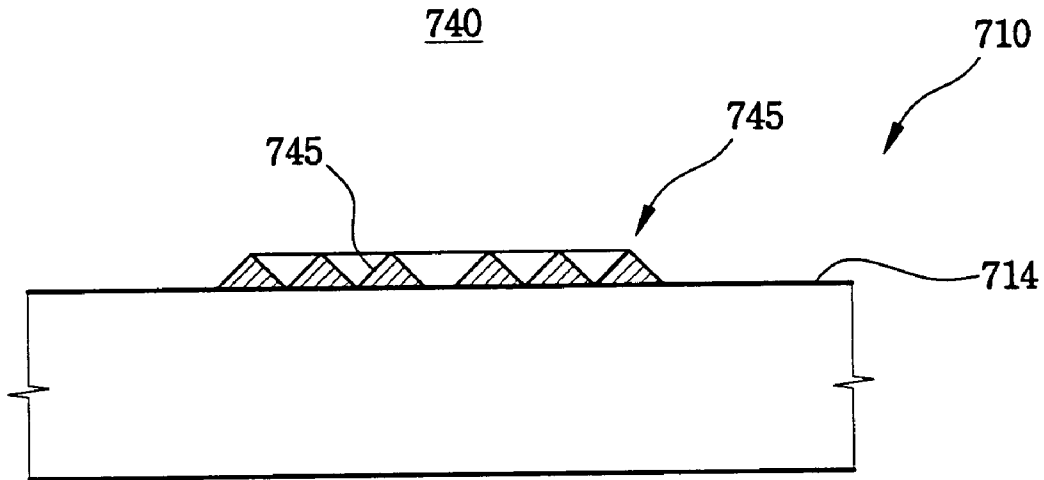


FIG. 11C

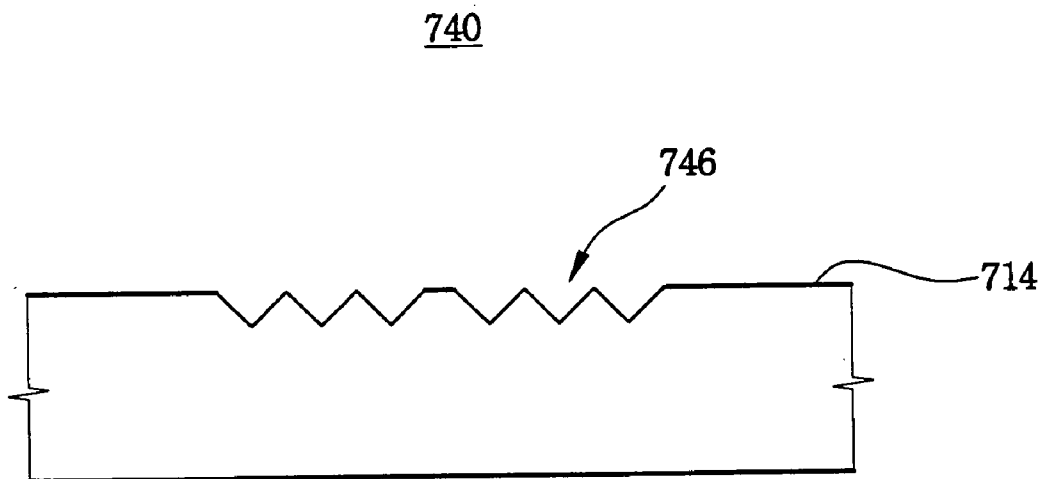


FIG. 12

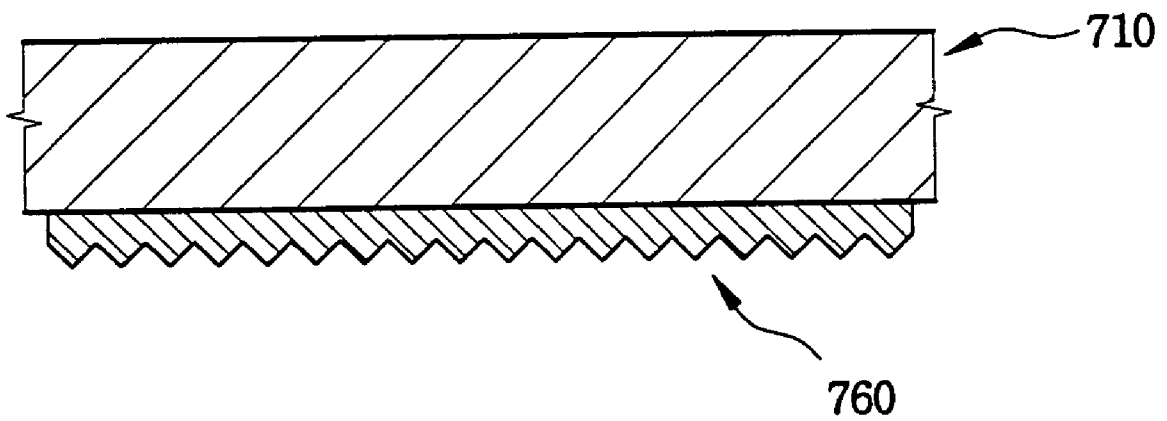


FIG. 13A

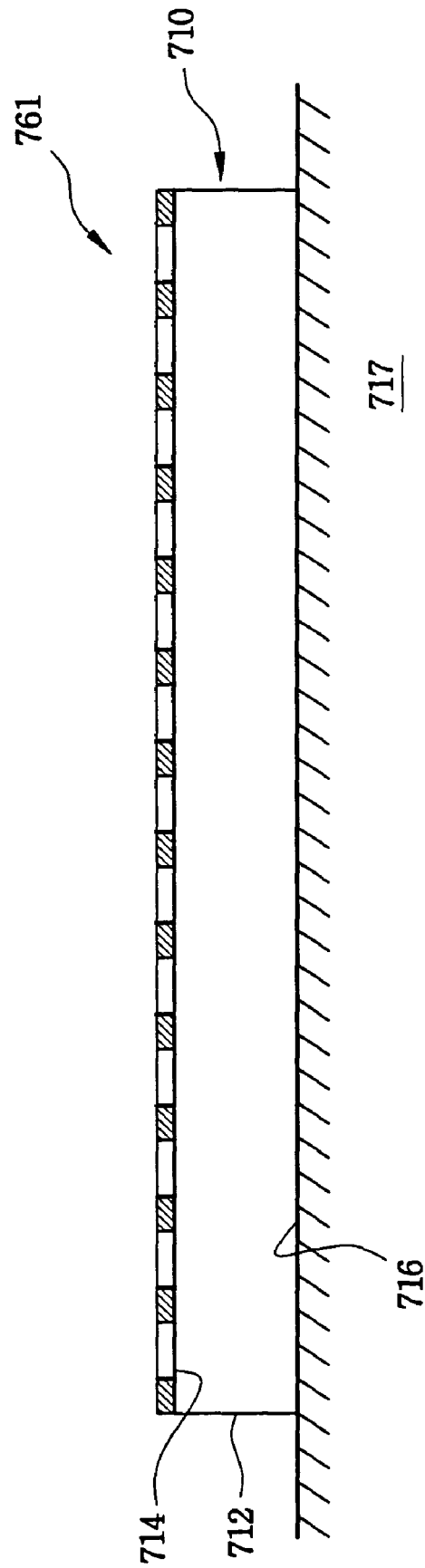


FIG. 13B

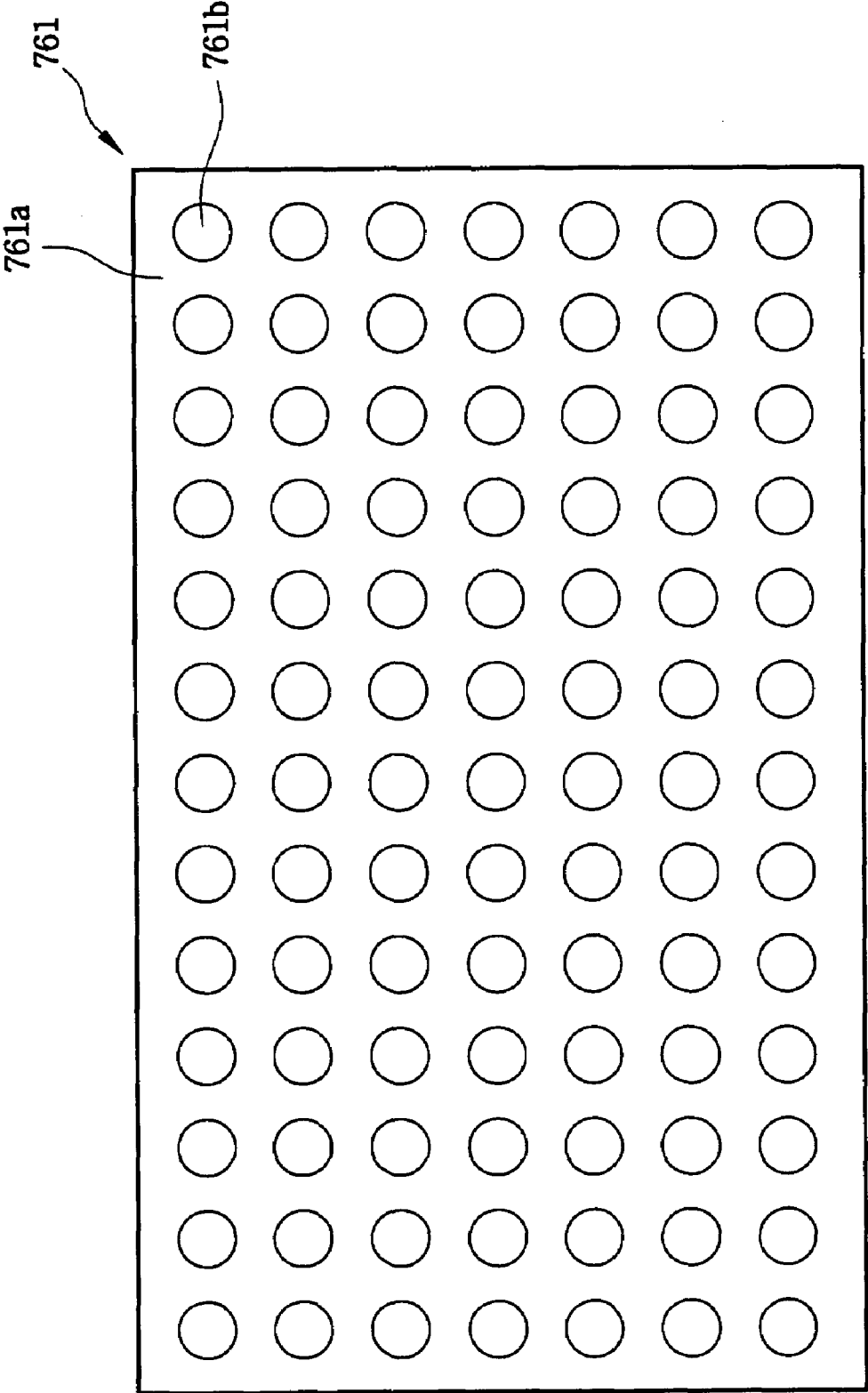


FIG. 13C

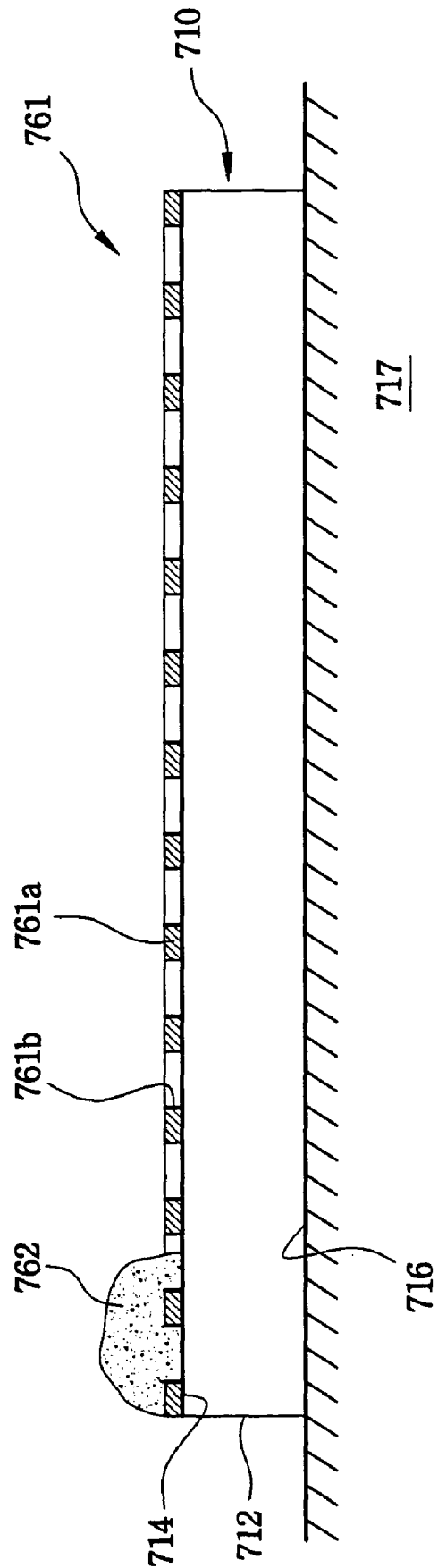


FIG. 13D

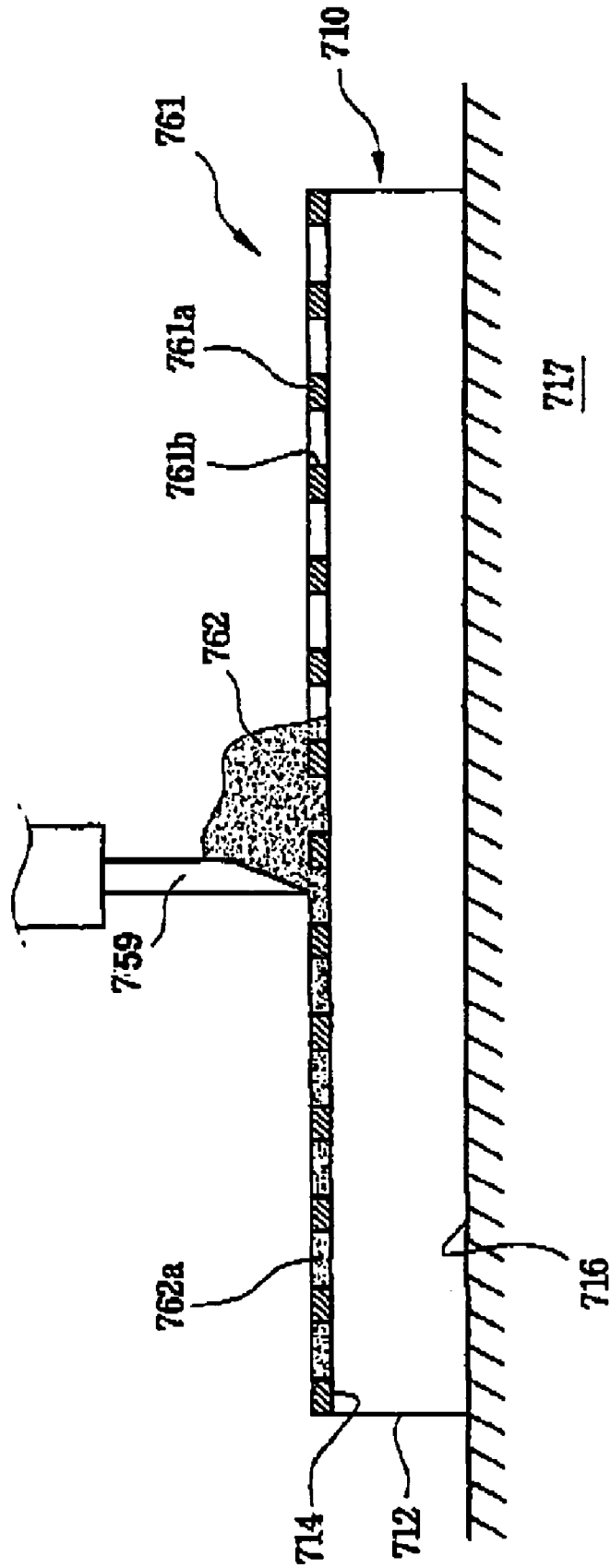


FIG. 13E

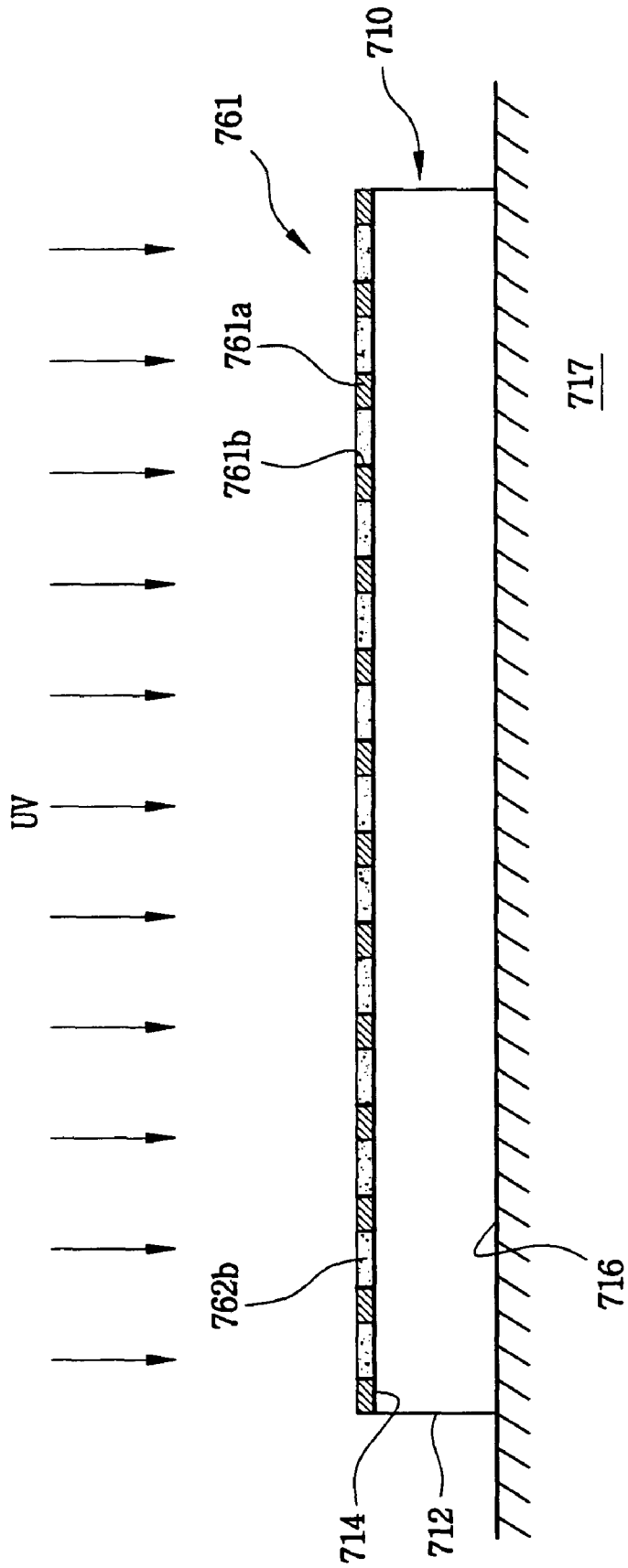


FIG. 13F

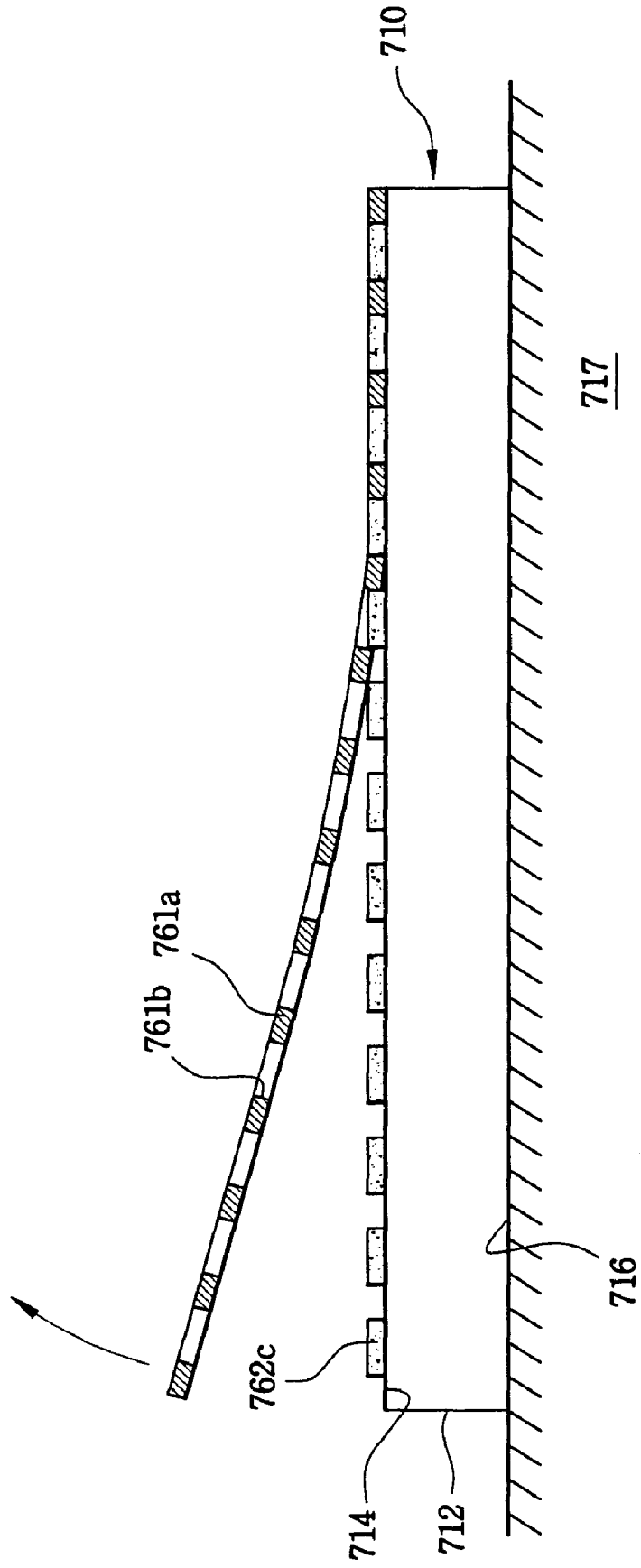


FIG. 13G

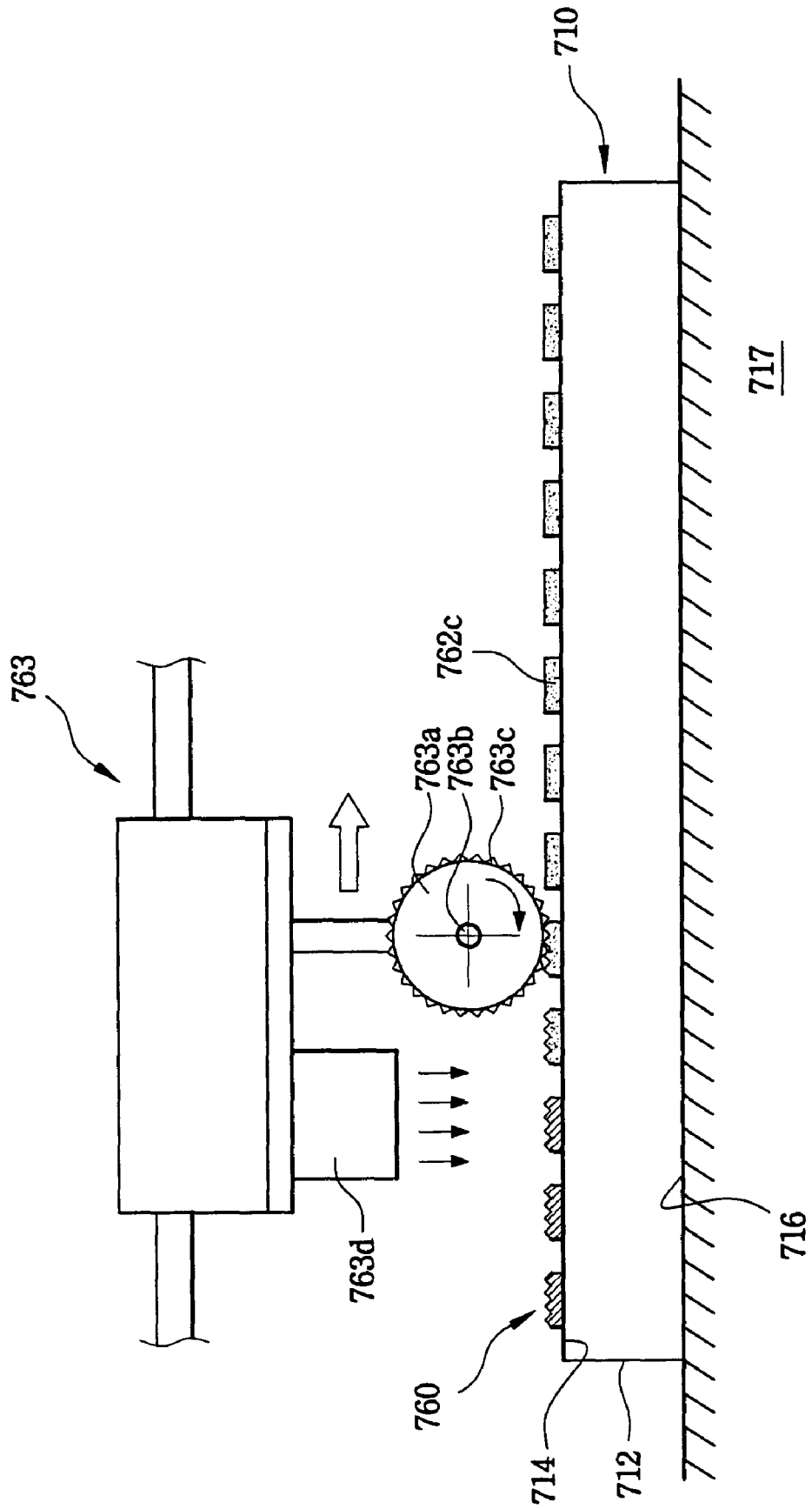


FIG. 14A

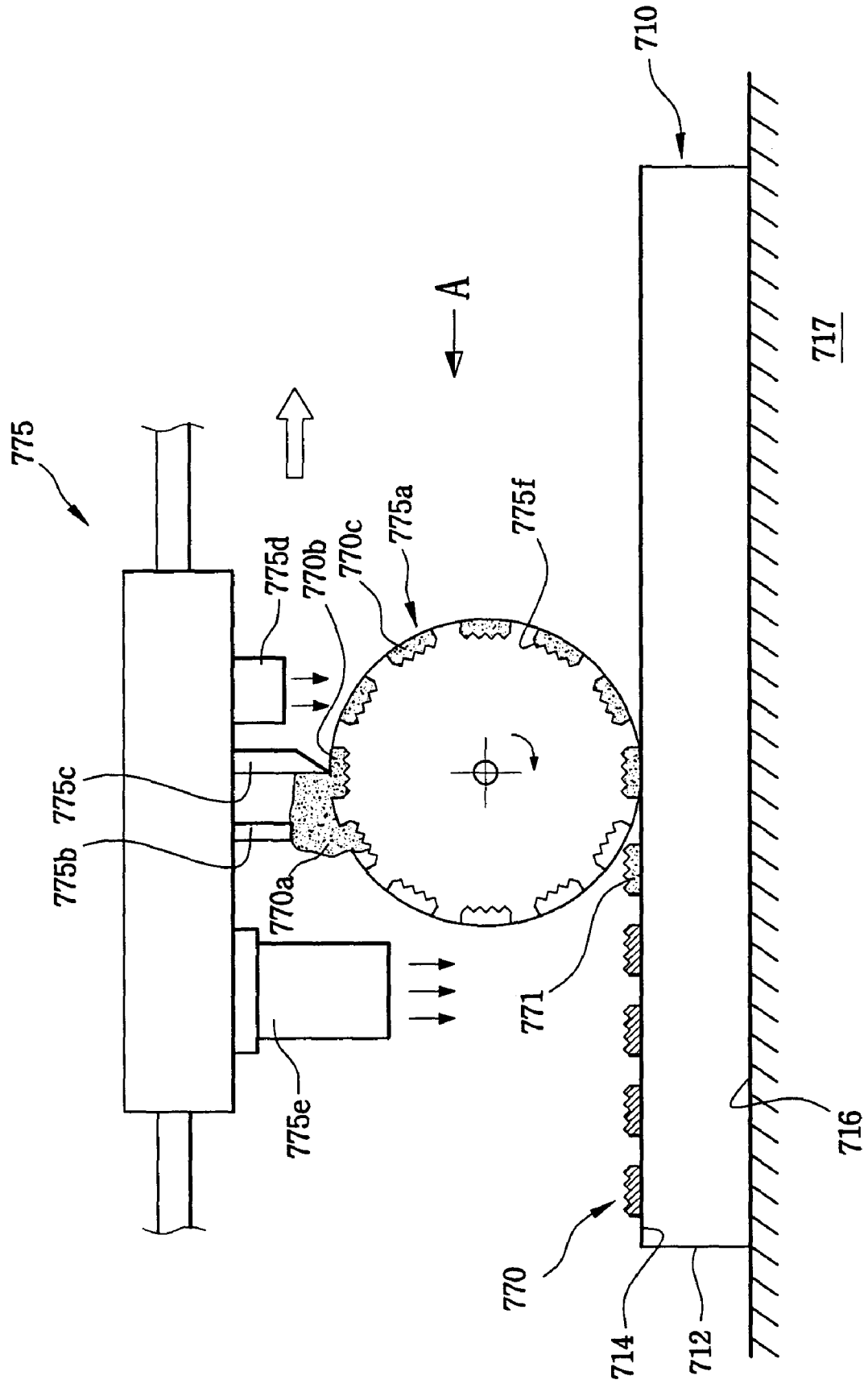


FIG. 14B

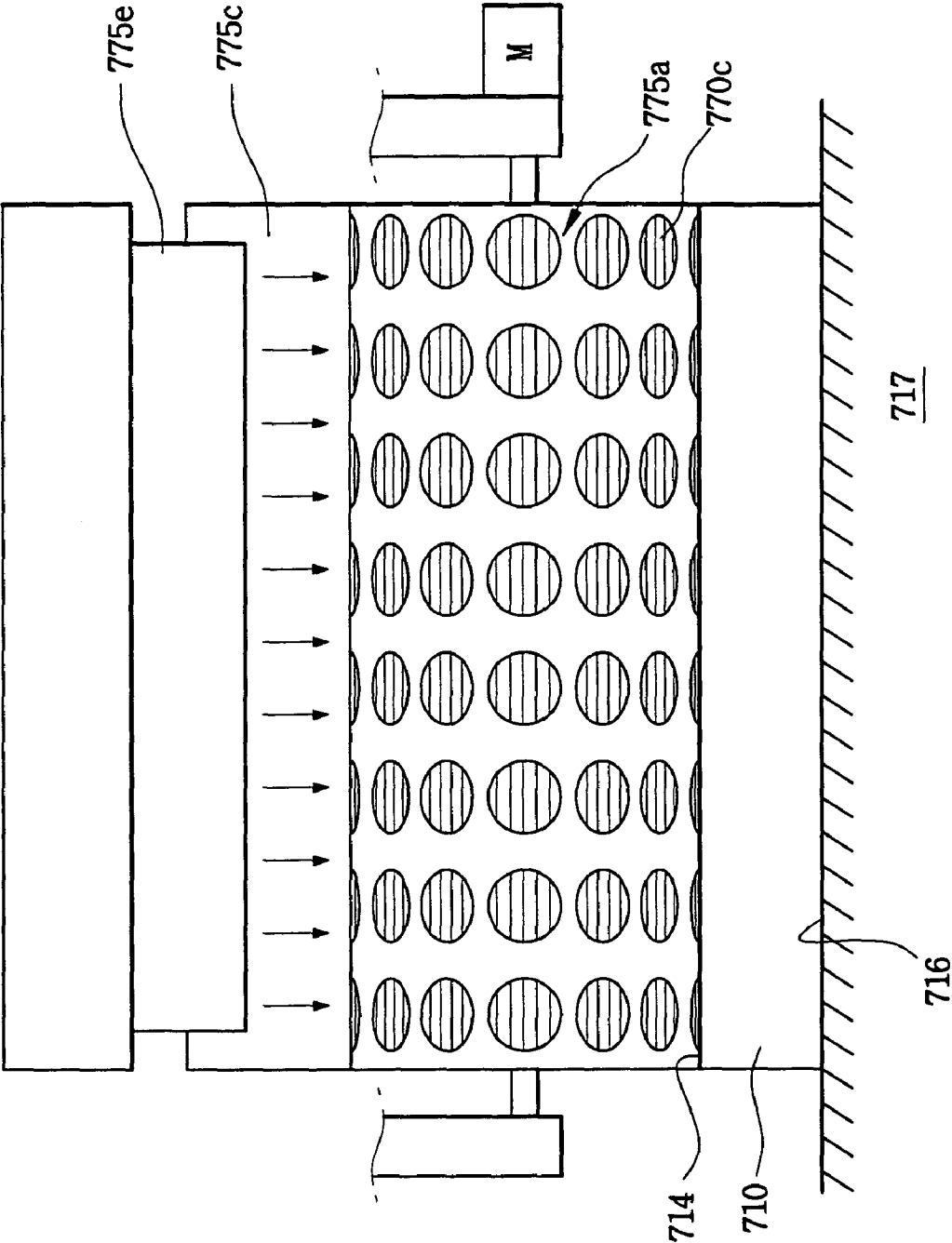


FIG. 15A

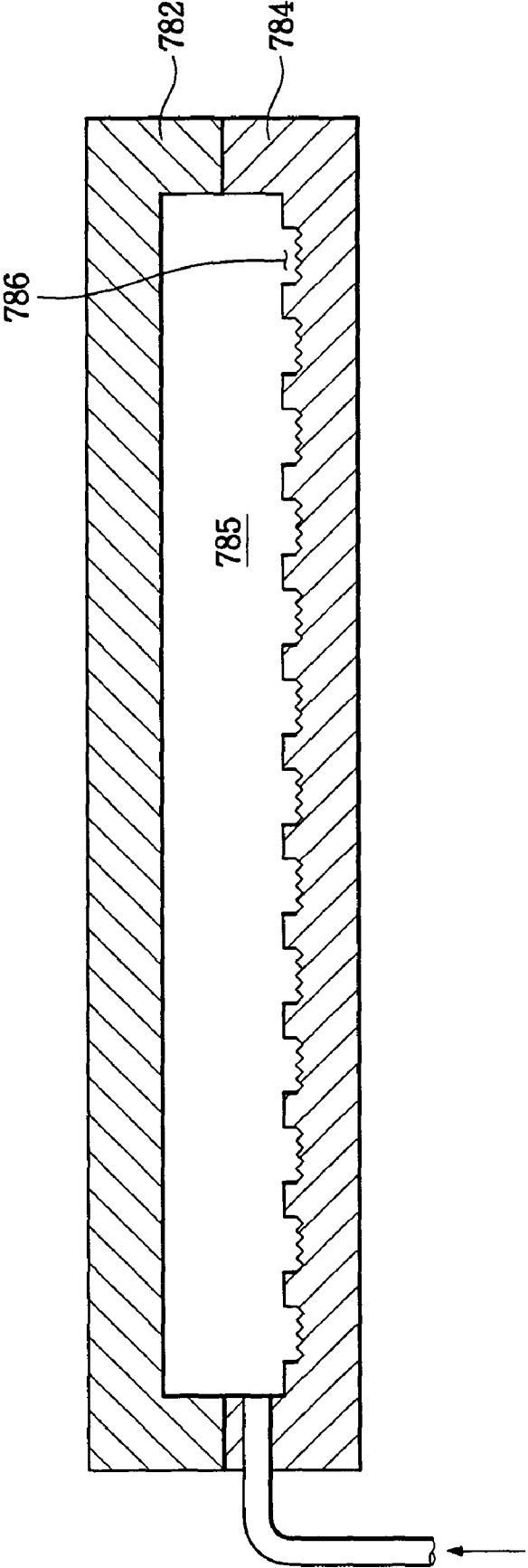


FIG. 15B

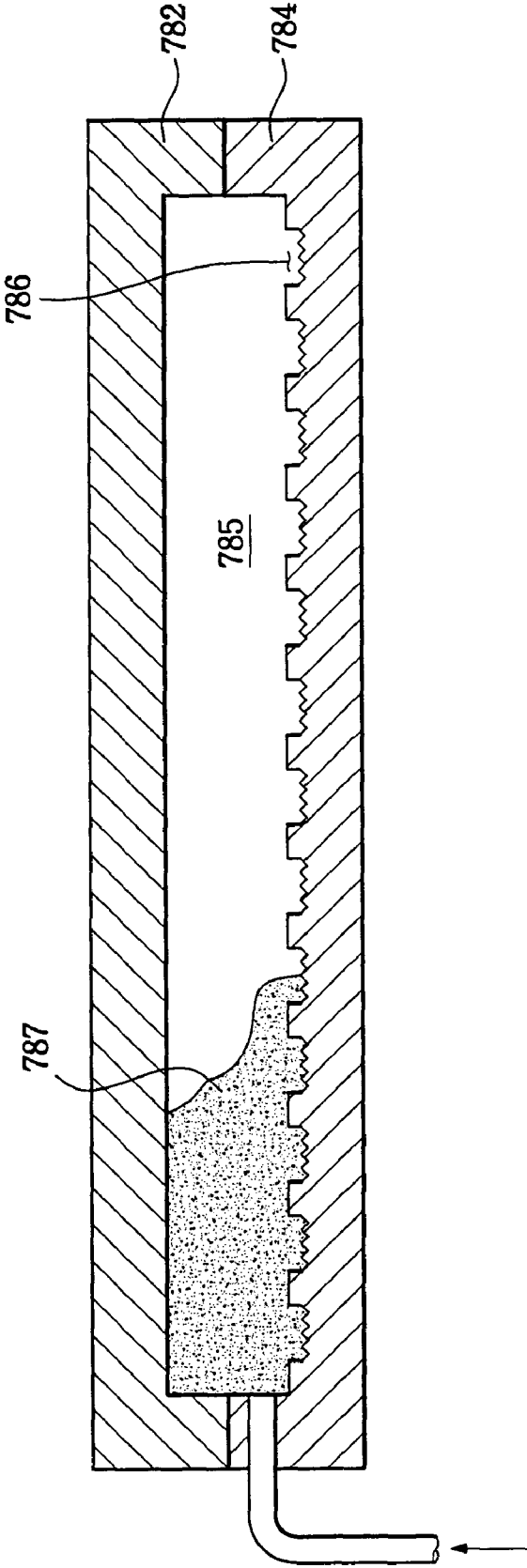


FIG. 16

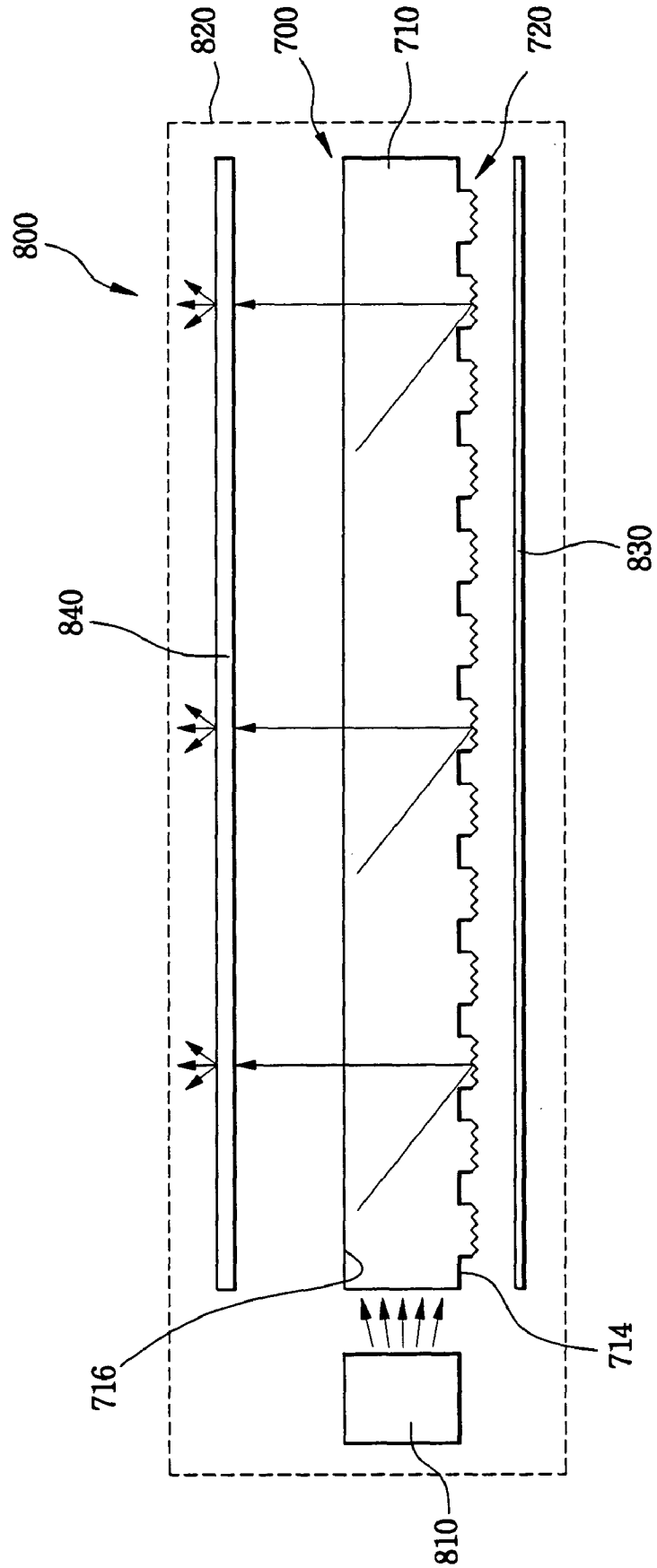


FIG. 17A

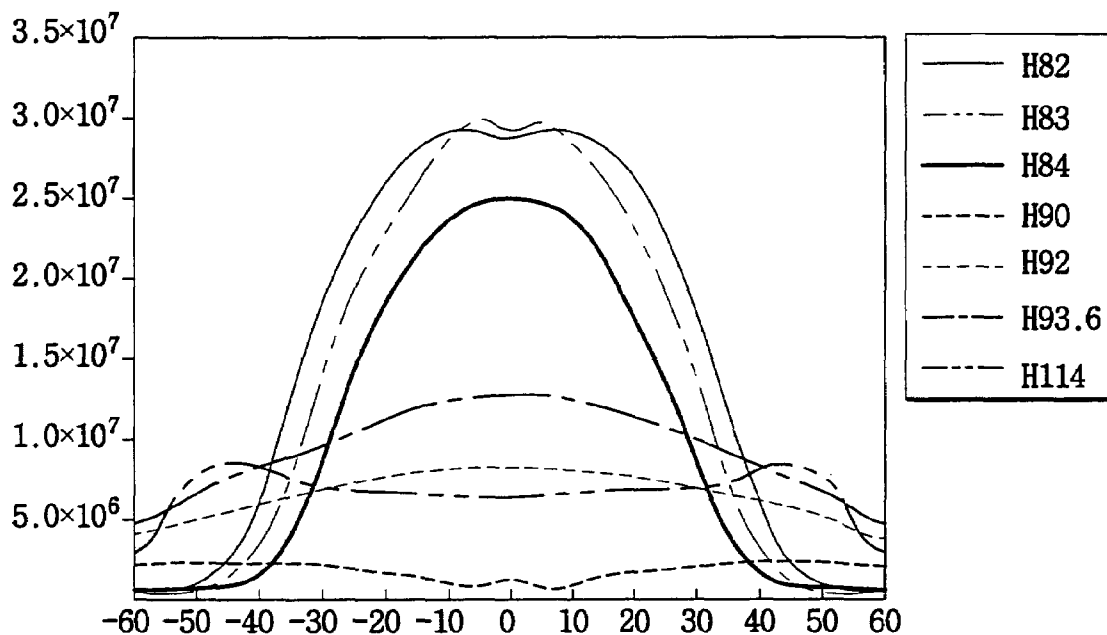


FIG. 17B

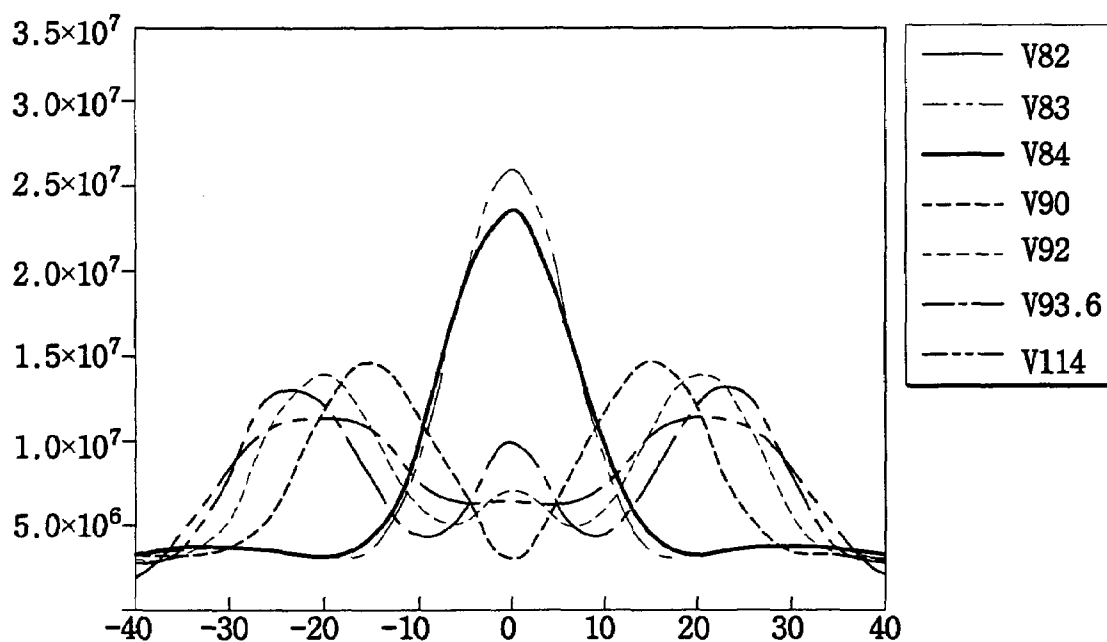


FIG. 18

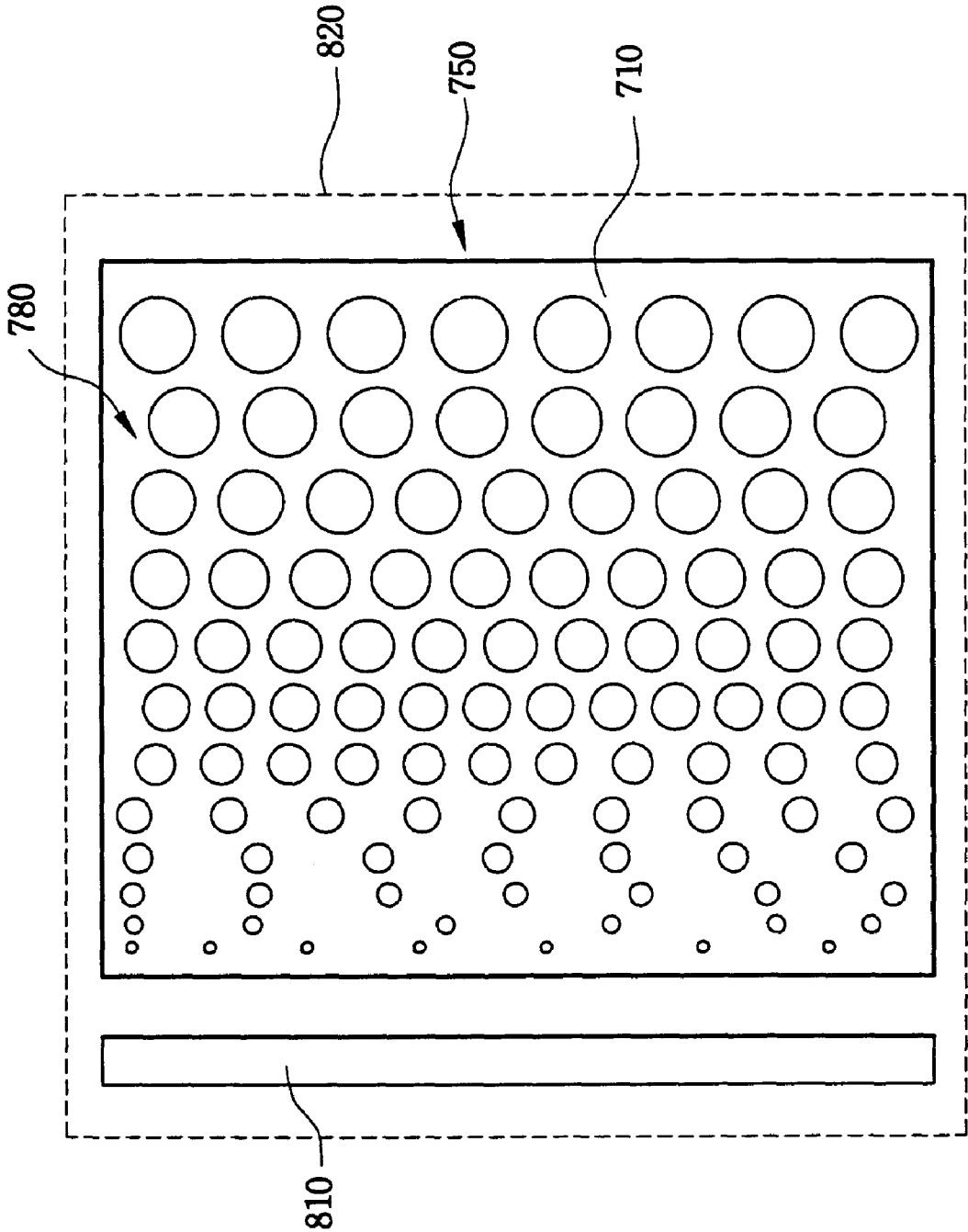


FIG. 19

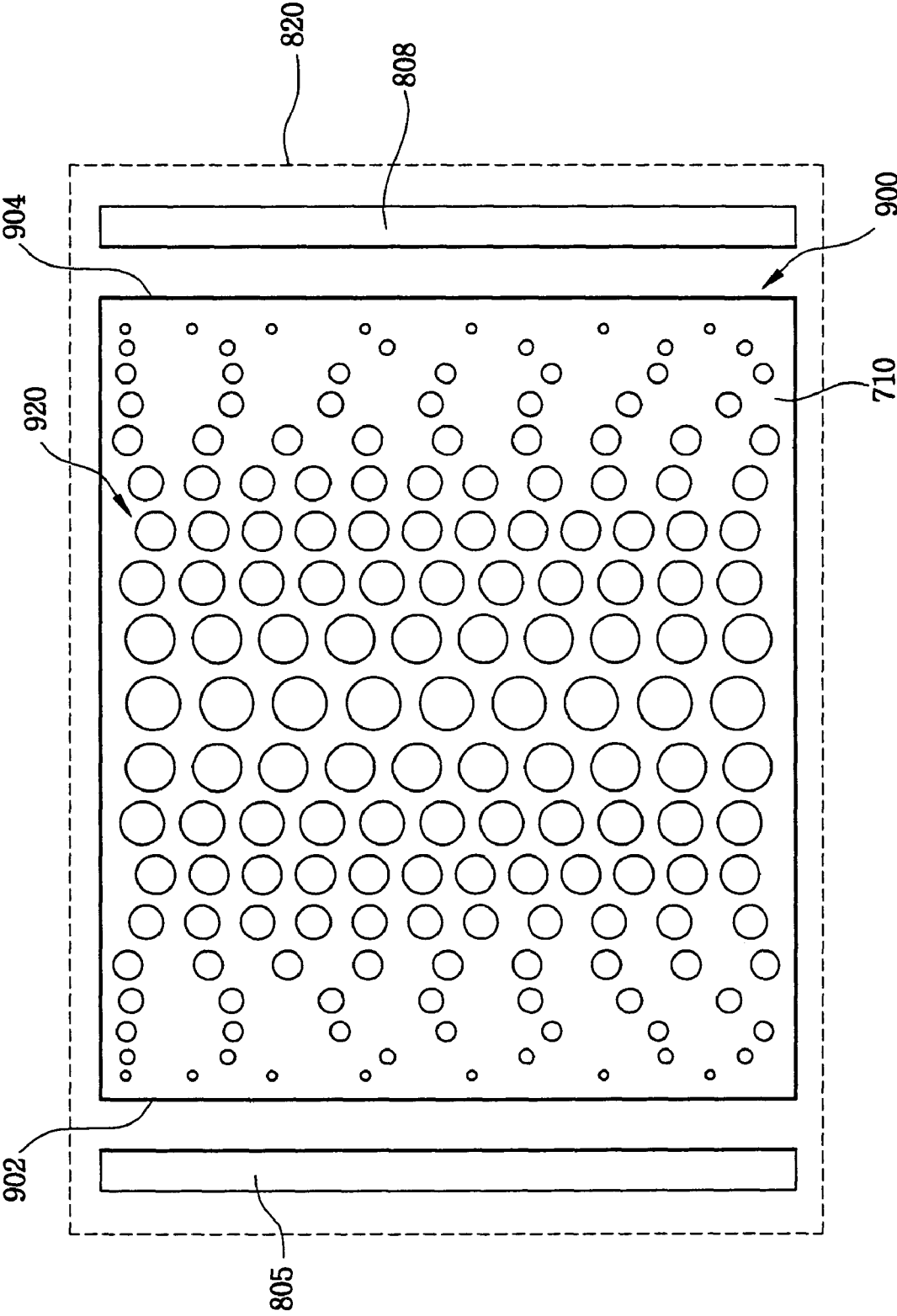


FIG. 20

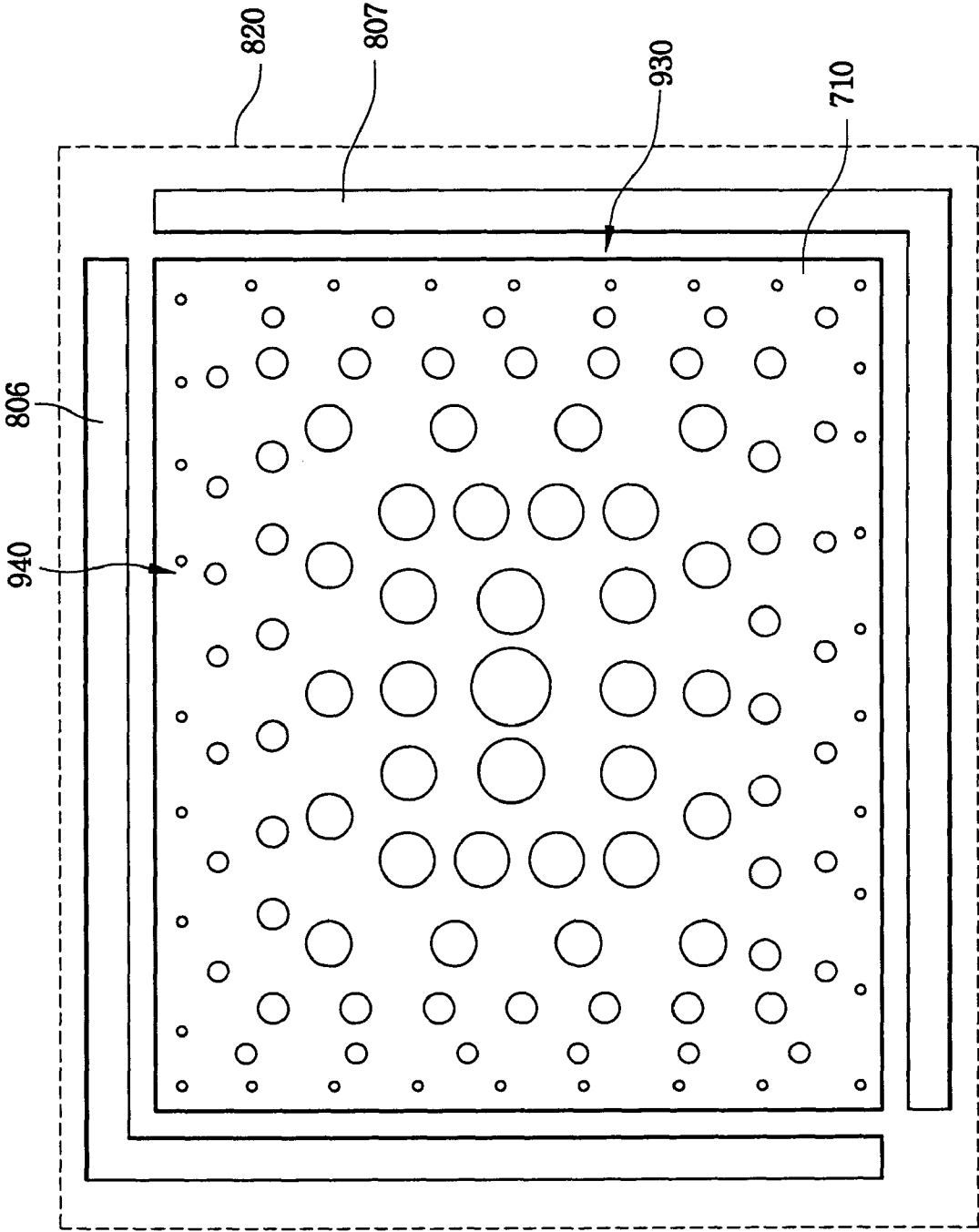
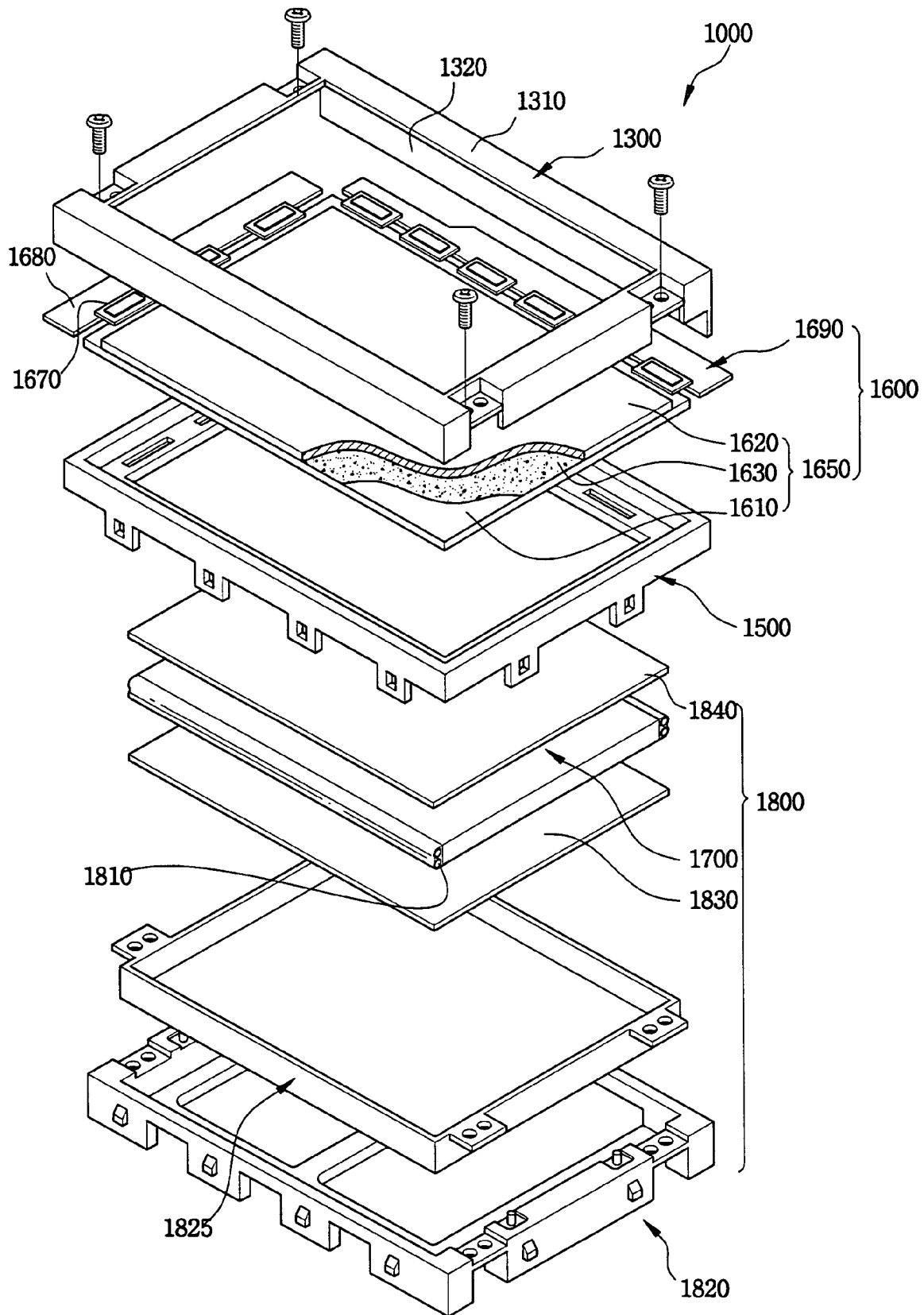


FIG. 21



LIGHT GUIDE PLATE WITH LIGHT REFLECTION PATTERN

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a plate for guiding light traveling therein, more particularly, to a light guide plate for providing light with uniform luminance distribution to be used for image display devices and a method of fabricating the light guide plate.

2. Description of the Related Art

A light guide plate is generally used inside a light equipment, or a backlight unit, that leads the light to a display equipment in an image display device. In a display device such as a liquid crystal display (LCD) device, a light guide plate is employed to guide and adjust paths of the light provided from a light source to produce light having uniform luminance distribution. Since liquid crystal in an LCD device emits no light, light is generated from a light source and then provided to the liquid crystal through a light guide plate.

An LCD device generally has a device for displaying images, a device for controlling the liquid crystal, and a device for supplying the light. The liquid crystal controlling device controls the transmission of light in the liquid crystal by applying electric field to liquid crystal molecules. In other words, applying electric field to the liquid crystal molecules will untwist them to varying degrees, depending on the current's voltage. LCD devices use such liquid crystal because it reacts predictably to electric current in such a way as to control light passage.

The light supplying device is to provide the liquid crystal with light having uniform brightness. The light supplying device has a light source and a light guide plate for producing the light. Typically, a light source in the light supplying device generates linear light having non-uniform optical distribution. Thus, the light guide plate converts such a light into planar light having uniform optical distribution to be provided to the liquid crystal. However, the conventional light guide plates have drawbacks such as decrease in the luminance on a display panel of the LCD device.

To increase the luminance, various types of light guide plates have been developed such as a light guide plate having diffusion dots on its reflection surface to increase the quantity of light exiting the light guide plate, as known to those skilled in the art.

Also, the light traveling in the light guide plate may be reflected by one surface of the light guide plate and exits another surface of the light guide plate. In this case, under the Snell's refraction law, the light exiting the light guide plate cannot have an exit angle perpendicular to the light exit surface of the light guide plate. It results in a decrease of the luminance on a display panel of the LCD device.

In order to make the light exit angle greater (i.e., closer to 90°), the conventional light supplying devices employ various types of optical sheets on the light guide-plate. For instance, a diffusion sheet is disposed on the light guide plate to increase the light exit angle, and a prism sheet is further disposed on the diffusion sheet to increase an exit angle of the light exiting the diffusion sheet.

Although the diffusion sheets and prism sheets may enhance the luminance on a display panel of the LCD device, they causes such problems as increasing the overall weight and volume of an LCD device and also increasing the manufacturing cost of an LCD device because of the additional components.

Therefore, a need exists for a light guide plate for maximizing the luminance on a display panel of an LCD device without increasing the number of components for the LCD device. Further, it will be advantageous to provide a method of fabricating such light guide plates in a simpler process and in a mass production process.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The above-discussed and other drawbacks and deficiencies of the prior art are overcome or alleviated by a light guide plate of the present invention and an LCD device employing the light guide plate. In one embodiment, a light guide plate of the present invention includes a light incident surface for receiving light, first and second light emission surfaces for emitting light at a first light emission angle with respect to the first and second light emission surfaces, and a light reflection pattern formed on the first light emission surface, for reflecting light toward the second light emission surface. The reflected light from the light reflection pattern exits the second light emission surface at a second light emission angle with respect to the second light emission surface. The second light emission angle is preferably larger than the first light emission angle.

Also, the light reflection pattern may include a plurality of dots having a prism pattern on their surface. The dots may have different sizes such that the more distant is a dot from the light incident surface, the larger is the dot. The light reflection pattern may have different densities of the dots at different areas on the first light emission surface such that the closer is an area of the light reflection pattern to the light incident surface, the higher is a density of the dots at the area. The dots each have light reflecting surfaces elongated in a selected direction, wherein adjacent ones of the light reflecting surfaces meet each other at elongated edges of the adjacent light reflecting surfaces to form an angle between the adjacent reflecting surfaces.

In another embodiment of the present invention, provided is a backlight assembly for providing light with uniform luminance, which includes the above-mentioned light guide plate, a light source for providing light to the light incident surface of the light guide plate, and a receiving container for receiving the light guide plate and the light source. The backlight assembly may also include a second light source for providing light to a second light incident surface of the light guide plate. In this case, the dots of the light reflection pattern may have different sizes such that the closer is a dot to one of the light incident surfaces, the smaller the dot is.

In another embodiment, an LCD device is provided for displaying images. The LCD device includes the above-mentioned backlight assembly, a display panel for receiving the light from the backlight assembly to display the images, and a chassis for securing the display panel with the backlight assembly.

In another embodiment, a molding apparatus is provided for fabricating the light guide plate. The molding apparatus includes a lower mold having a plurality of recessed dots each having a shape corresponding to the dots of the light reflection pattern, an upper mold having side walls to be combined with edges of the lower mold to form an empty space within the upper and lower molds, and an inlet for injecting indurative material into the empty space.

The present invention also provides a method of fabricating the above-mentioned light guide plate. The method includes the steps of preparing a body of the light guide plate, which has surfaces including a light incident surface and light emission surfaces, placing a pattern mask on a first light emission

surface, in which the pattern mask has a plurality of openings, filling the openings with material having fluidity, first curing the material, removing the pattern mask to form a plurality of dots of the first cured material, forming a pattern on surfaces of the dots of the first cured material, and second curing the dots of the first cured material to form solid dots with the pattern. The method may also include the steps of scraping the material disposed on the pattern mask to level the material with surface of the pattern mask, and forming the openings of the pattern mask in different sizes such that a size of an opening is inversely proportional to a distance between the opening and the light incident surface of the body.

In another aspect of the present invention, a method of fabricating a light guide plate includes the steps of preparing a body of the light guide plate, which has surfaces including a light incident surface and light emission surfaces, forming recesses with a pattern on a roller disposed on a first light emission surface of the body, filling the recesses with material having fluidity, first curing the material having fluidity, rotating the roller to proceed forward so that the first cured material is separated from the recesses and a plurality of dots of the first cured material is formed on the first light emission surface, and second curing the dots of the first cured material to form solid dots with the pattern. The method may also include the step of forming elongated surfaces of a prism shape on the surfaces of the dots, the elongated surfaces of a prism shape reflecting light from the light incident surface toward a second light emission surface.

By employing the above-described features of the light guide plate according to the present invention, one or more prism sheets that were required in the conventional LCD devices may be no longer necessary in the LCD device of the present invention, and the display deterioration due to the light interference between a prism sheet and a display panel, such as moiré phenomenon, in the conventional LCD devices may also be effectively eliminated in the LCD device according to the present invention because the LCD device of the present invention does not require a prism sheet.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This disclosure will present in detail the following description of exemplary embodiments with reference to the following figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a light guide plate according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 2A and 2B are schematic diagrams each illustrating a light reflection pattern of the light guide plate according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view of portion B in FIGS. 2A and 2B;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a prism dot in FIG. 3;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged view of portion C in FIG. 4;

FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram illustrating paths of light traveling in a light guide plate body;

FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11A is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11B is a cross-sectional view of a prism dot in FIG. 11A;

FIG. 11C is a cross-sectional view of a prism dot according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 13A is a schematic diagram illustrating a light guide plate body and a pattern mask placed thereon;

FIG. 13B is a top view of the pattern mask in FIG. 13A;

FIG. 13C shows a process of disposing material on the pattern mask;

FIG. 13D shows a process of filling openings of the pattern mask with the material;

FIG. 13E shows a process of first curing the material in the openings;

FIG. 13F shows a process of removing the pattern mask;

FIG. 13G shows a process of forming a pattern on the first cured material dots;

FIG. 14A shows a method of fabricating a light guide plate according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 14B is a front view of a pattern forming unit in FIG. 14A;

FIGS. 15A and 15B are schematic cross-sectional views of a molding apparatus for fabricating a light guide plate according to the present invention;

FIG. 16 is a schematic diagram illustrating a backlight assembly according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIGS. 17A and 17B are graphs showing luminance measured on the light guide plate in FIG. 16;

FIG. 18 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light guide plate applicable to the backlight assembly in FIG. 16;

FIG. 19 is a schematic diagram illustrating a backlight assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 20 is a schematic diagram illustrating a backlight assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 21 is an exploded perspective view of a liquid crystal display (LCD) device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Detailed illustrative embodiments of the present invention are disclosed herein. However, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are merely representative for purposes of describing preferred embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of a light guide plate according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The light guide plate 700 has a body 710 with multiple surfaces of which number depends on a shape of the body. In other words, the body 710 may have a triangular plate shape with three side surfaces (in addition to top and bottom surfaces), a rectangular plate shape with four side surfaces, or a polygonal plate shape with five or more side surfaces.

In this embodiment, for example, the body 710 has a hexahedral shape including first and second surfaces 714, 716 facing each other and a side surface or light incident surface 712 on which externally applied light is incident. The light applied onto the light incident surface 712 travels in the body 710 and exits mainly through the first and second surfaces

714, 716 which may be or not be parallel with each other. The light has various traveling paths in the body 710, each of which ends up with exiting through the first or second surface 714, 716 upon satisfying the conditions of the Snell's law of light refraction. The light exiting through the first or second surface 714, 716 may have various angles with respect to corresponding one of the first and second surfaces 714, 716. For example, the light exits the light guide plate 700 at an emission angle θ_1 with respect to the first or second surface 714, 716. The light emission angle θ_1 is one of the factors determining efficiency of the light guided by the light guide plate 700.

Through experiments including computer simulation, it has been proved that luminance at a display apparatus employing the light guide plate 700 increases as the light exiting through the first or second surface becomes perpendicular to the corresponding surface (i.e., the light emission angle θ_1 becomes close to about 90°). On the contrary, luminance at the display apparatus decreases as the exiting light becomes parallel to the corresponding surface (i.e., the light emission angle θ_1 becomes close to about 0°).

The light guide plate 700 also has a light reflection pattern 720 for adjusting the light paths in the body 710 and the light emission angle. In other words, the light reflection pattern 720 is designed to reflect the light from the light incident surface 712, and the reflected light exits the second surface 716 at an emission angle larger than the emission angle θ_1 . Assuming that a light guide plate has no such light reflection pattern 720 and a display panel is disposed over the second surface 716, there is inevitable loss of light exiting the first surface which has no use for the display. In the present invention, since the light guide plate 700 has the light reflection pattern 720 with functions of reflecting the light as well as adjusting the light paths, light efficiency of a display apparatus employing the light guide plate 700 advantageously increases.

In this embodiment, as shown in FIG. 1, the light reflection pattern 720 has a shape of prism dots 721 formed on the first surface 714. It should be noted that a display panel (not shown) is assumed to be disposed at the side of the second surface 716. In like manner, assuming that a display panel is disposed at the side of the first surface 714, the light reflection pattern 720 would be formed on the second surface 716.

The light provided through the light incident surface 712 is reflected by the light reflection pattern 720, and the reflected light exiting through the second surface 716 has a light emission angle θ_2 with respect to the second surface 716. For convenience of the description, the emission angle θ_1 of the light reflected by the first surface 714 and exiting through the second surface 716 is referred to as a "first light emission angle θ_1 ," and the emission angle θ_2 of the light reflected by the light reflection pattern 720 and exiting through the second surface 716 is referred to as a "second light emission angle θ_2 ." Each prism dot 721 of the light reflection pattern 720 has light reflecting surfaces forming one or more prisms on the surface of each dot. Such prisms of the light reflection pattern 720 are designed to reflect the light such that the second light emission angle θ_2 is larger than the first light emission angle θ_1 . In other words, the second light emission angle θ_2 is adjusted by the light reflection pattern 720 to maximize the efficiency of the light exiting the second surface 716. A detailed description of the light reflection pattern 720 follows below.

FIG. 2A is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern 720 is formed on the first surface 714 of the light guide plate 700 and has multiple prism dots 721 each having a plate shape with a

selected thickness. The prism dots 721 may also have various shapes such as circular, rectangular or polygonal shapes. In this embodiment, for example, the prism dots 721 have a circular shape.

In this embodiment, the prism dots 721 have a substantially identical size and are formed on the first surface 714 with different densities at different areas thereon. Here, the term "density" is defined as the size of accumulated area of prism dots formed at a unit area ($a \times b$ in FIG. 2A). Thus, the more the number of the prism dots at a unit area, the larger the density of the prism dots at the unit area.

In the embodiment of FIG. 2A, the number of the prism dots 721 per unit area varies depending on the position of a measured area. The number of the prism dots 721 per unit area increases inversely proportional to the amount of light arriving on the measured area. In other words, the light reflection pattern 720 has less prism dots 721 per unit area (i.e., a smaller density) at an area closer to the light incident surface 712, and more prism dots 721 per unit area (i.e., a larger density) at an area more distant from the light incident surface 712. In FIG. 2, for example, there is a single prism dot 721 at the unit area ($a \times b$) proximate to the light incident surface 712, and there are four or more prism dots 721 at the same unit area ($a \times b$) far distant from the light incident surface 712. Also, the number of the prism dots 721 vary gradually depending on the position of an area on which light arrives from the light incident surface 712, so that the light exiting the second surface 716 has uniform luminance.

Referring to FIG. 2B, the prism dots 721a formed on the light reflection pattern 720a have different sizes depending on the position of an area at the first surface 714. The sizes of the prism dots are different such that the larger the density of a unit area, the farther the unit area from the light incident surface 712, and in like manner, the smaller the density of a unit area, the closer the unit area to the light incident surface 712. In this embodiment, since the density of prism dots is controlled by forming the prism dots in different sizes, an area farther from the light incident surface 712 has larger prism dots and an area closer to the light incident surface 712 has smaller prism dots.

Accordingly, in the light reflection patterns 720, 720a of FIGS. 2A and 2B, the density of prism dots at a unit area varies in association with the amount of light arriving at the unit area. An area receiving more amount of light has a smaller density of the prism dots, and an area receiving less amount of light has a larger density of the prism dots.

FIG. 3 is an enlarged view of portion B in FIGS. 2A and 2B. FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the prism dot taken along line A-A' in FIG. 3. Referring to FIGS. 1 through 4 together, a detailed description of a prism dot of the light reflection pattern follows. The prism dot 721 has one or more light reflecting surfaces 725 to reflect light from the light incident surface 712 to the second surface 716. The light reflected by the light reflecting surfaces 725 and exiting through the second surface 716 has the second light emission angle θ_2 larger than the first light emission angle θ_1 of the light reflected by the first surface 714 (not prism dots 721) and exiting through the second surface 716.

The light reflecting surfaces 725 form sawtooth-shaped prisms each of which has first and second light reflecting surfaces 722, 724, as shown in FIG. 5, an enlarged view of portion C in FIG. 4. The first and second light reflecting surfaces 722, 724 meet each other to have an angle θ_3 therebetween. Where the angle θ_3 between the first and second light reflecting surfaces 722, 724 is in the range from about 80° to about 120° , the second light emission angle θ_2 is larger than the first light emission angle θ_1 . In particular, when the

angle θ_3 is from about 82° to about 84° (more particularly, about 82.5°), the second light emission angle θ_2 becomes about 90° so that the luminance at a display panel becomes maximized. Also, the light reflecting surfaces **725** are formed having a regular pattern such that the sawtooth-shaped prisms have a substantially identical pitch (i.e., a distance between the adjacent prisms) in a range, for example, from about $20\ \mu\text{m}$ to about $200\ \mu\text{m}$. Accordingly, the light guide plate **700** with the light reflection pattern **720** according to the present invention provides a display panel with the light substantially perpendicular to the surface of the light guide plate **700** so that light efficiency and luminance at the display panel increase without additional diffusion and/or prism sheets.

Generally, prism sheets and diffusion sheets in a light guide plate are used to adjust the paths of light exiting the light guide plate for the purpose of enhancing the light efficiency and luminance at a display panel. In the present invention, since the light exiting the second surface **716** of the light guide plate **700** is adjusted by the light reflection pattern **720** to have the light emission angle θ_2 equal to about 90° , the prism and/or diffusion sheets are no longer necessary for increasing the luminance and/or light efficiency at a display panel receiving light from the light guide plate **700**.

FIG. **6** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In the light reflection pattern **726**, the alignment direction of the light reflecting surfaces **725** and the incident direction of the light incident onto the light incident surface **712** are factors of determining luminance at a display panel. The luminance increases in case that the light is incident on the light incident surface **712** in X-direction and the light reflecting surfaces **725** are elongated and aligned in Y-direction. In other words, when the light reflection pattern **726** has prism dots with the light reflecting surfaces **725** aligned in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of the light provided to the light incident surface **712**, the luminance increases at a display panel receiving the light from the light guide plate **700** with the light reflection pattern **726**.

FIG. **7** is a schematic diagram illustrating paths of light traveling in the light guide plate body **710**. The light incident on the light incident surface **712** reflects from the first and second surfaces **714**, **716** and the multiple side surfaces including the light incident surface **712** so that the light has various traveling paths in the body **710**. Of the various light paths, some of them do not arrive on a prism dot so that there would be light not reflected by the prism dots to the second surface **716**. Such light not reflected by the prism dots results in a loss of the light, which causes a decrease in the luminance at a display panel. Such loss of light may be prevented by employing the light guide plate having the light reflection pattern **726** with light reflecting surfaces **725** aligned in a direction parallel with the light incident surface **712**.

FIG. **8** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern **728** basically has two types of patterns, a first light reflection pattern **620** and a second light reflection pattern **630**. The first light reflection pattern **620** includes prism dots each having light reflecting surfaces **625** elongated and aligned parallel to the light incident surface **712**. The first light reflection pattern **620** reflects the light provided through the light incident surface **712** toward the second surface **716** at the second light emission angle θ_2 (referring to FIG. **1**).

The second light reflection pattern **630** includes prism dots each having light reflecting surfaces **635** elongated and aligned nonparallel to the light incident surface **712**. The second light reflection pattern **630** reflects toward the second

surface the light that is not reflected by the first light reflection pattern **620**. The light reflecting surfaces **635** of the second light reflection pattern **630** may be aligned regularly in a selected direction or irregularly in various directions.

Thus, for example, the first and second light reflection patterns **620**, **630** are aligned such that the light reflecting surfaces **625** of the first light reflection pattern **620** are aligned parallel to the light incident surface **712**, and the light reflecting surfaces **635** of the second light reflection pattern **630** are aligned randomly independent of the direction of the light incident surface **712**. Also, the prism dots of the first light reflection pattern **620** are uniformly arranged in a matrix form, and the prism dots of the second light reflection pattern **630** are arranged such that a prism dot of the second light reflection pattern **630** is disposed between adjacent prism dots of the first light reflection pattern **620**. As a result, such light reflection patterns **620**, **630** may generate the same effects as if multiple prism sheets were employed in addition to a light guide plate.

FIG. **9** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern **729** also has two types of patterns including the first light reflection pattern **620** and a third light reflection pattern **632**. The first light reflection pattern **620** is the same as in the embodiment of FIG. **8**. That is, the first light reflection pattern **620** has the light reflecting surfaces **625** aligned parallel to the light incident surface **712**. The third light reflection pattern **632** of this embodiment includes prism dots having light reflecting surfaces **637** elongated and aligned substantially perpendicular to the light incident surface **712**. In other words, the light reflecting surfaces **637** of the third light reflection pattern **632** are aligned in X-direction while the light reflecting surfaces **625** of the first light reflection pattern **620** are aligned in Y-direction. Thus, the alignment directions of the light reflecting surfaces **625**, **637** of the first and third light reflection patterns **620**, **632** are substantially perpendicular to each other. This provides similar effects as if employing two prism sheets arranged such that prisms of the respective prism sheets are perpendicular to each other.

In this embodiment, the prism dots of the first light reflection pattern **620** are arranged in a matrix form, and the prism dots of the third light reflection pattern **632** are each interposed between adjacent prism dots of the first light reflection pattern **620**. The prism dots of the first and third light reflection patterns **620**, **632** may have a substantially identical size or different sizes. For example, the prism dots of the third light reflection pattern **632** are smaller than those of the first light reflection pattern **620**, as shown in FIG. **9**.

FIG. **10** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern **730** of this embodiment includes prism dots each having light reflecting surfaces **735** elongated and aligned in various directions. The light reflecting surfaces **735**, for example, each have at least one bent portion. In particular, the prism dots of the light reflection pattern **730** each have a cross-shaped pattern such that the light reflecting surfaces **735** are each bent to have an L-shape and the L-shaped light reflecting surfaces **735** are continuously disposed in each quadrant of the prism dots. It should be noted that the prism dots in FIG. **10** have the L-shaped light reflecting surfaces **735** as an exemplary embodiment, and that the prism dots may have different shapes of light reflecting surfaces such as zigzag-shaped surfaces or combination thereof.

In this embodiment, it is advantageous that the prism dots may be arranged independent of directional relationship

between the light reflecting surfaces and the light incident surfaces. When light is provided to the four side surfaces of the body **710**, the light reflection pattern **730** with the bent light reflecting surfaces **735** effectively reflects the light toward a display panel. In other words, the light reflected by the light reflection pattern **730** exits the light guide plate toward a display panel at an increased light emission guide angle proximate about 90°. This is because each dot of the light reflection pattern **730** has the light reflecting surfaces **735** aligned in directions each perpendicular to corresponding one of the light incident directions.

FIG. **11A** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern according to another embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern **740** of this embodiment includes prism dots having light reflecting surfaces **745** with a concentric circular shape. For example, each prism dot has multiple light reflecting surfaces **745** which are concentric circles, as shown in FIG. **11A**. Since the light reflecting surfaces **745** have a circular shape (i.e., a continuously bent shape), they reflect the light with uniform distribution independent of directions of the light provided from the light incident surfaces **712**. Thus, the light reflection pattern **740** increases the light efficiency and luminance at a display panel.

FIG. **11B** is a cross-sectional view of the prism dot taken along line D-D' in FIG. **11A**. In this embodiment, the prism dots each have the light reflecting surfaces formed on the first surface **714** in a convex shape. Also, the prism dots may each have light reflecting surfaces **746** formed on the first surface **714** in a concave shape, as shown in FIG. **11C**.

The above-mentioned light reflection patterns are integrally formed on the first surface **714**. The prism dots with the light reflecting surfaces are integrally connected with the body of the light guide plate. The method of forming the light reflection patterns will be described in detail below. In contrast, a light reflection pattern may be formed as a separate layer, and the separate light reflection pattern is attached on a surface of the light guide plate.

FIG. **12** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light reflection pattern attached on the light guide plate according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The light reflection pattern **760** is separately formed to have one of the shapes described above in FIGS. **1** through **11C**. In other words, the light reflection pattern **760** has prism dots with light reflecting surfaces that have a shape same as one of the embodiments described above. The separate light reflection pattern **760** is attached onto the first surface of the light guide plate body **710** using, for example, adhesive.

The light reflection pattern **760** has a refractive index substantially identical to that of the light guide plate body **710**. For example, the light reflection pattern **760** and the body **710** may have same refractive index "1.4".

In the above exemplary embodiments, various structural configuration of the light guide plate according to the present invention is described. A detailed description of fabricating the light guide plate of the present invention follows.

To fabricate the light guide plate, a body for the light guide plate needs to be prepared first. The body is formed to have surfaces such as first and second surfaces facing each other and at least one side surface onto which light is incident. The first and second surfaces are connected with the at least one side surface to form the three-dimensional body. The body with such configuration may be made of synthetic resin by using a mold. On one of the first and second surfaces, the light reflection pattern is formed, for example, as shown in FIGS. **1** through **12**.

FIG. **13A** is a schematic diagram illustrating a light guide plate body **710** on which a pattern mask **761** is placed. The pattern mask **761** has a specific pattern for forming the light reflection pattern on a surface of the body **710**. In this embodiment, since the light reflection pattern is formed on the first surface **714**, the body **710** is placed on a base **717** for the second surface **716** to face thereon. Then, the pattern mask **761** is disposed on the first surface **714**.

FIG. **13B** is a top view of the pattern mask **761** in FIG. **13A**. The pattern mask **761** has a mask body **761a** and multiple openings **761b** formed in the mask body **761a**. The mask body **761a** has a size and a shape corresponding to those of the light reflection pattern, and the openings **761b** each have a size, a shape and a position corresponding to those of the dots of the light reflection pattern. For example, the openings **761b** may have a same size or different sizes varying in consideration of the light incident onto the light guide plate.

Upon placing the pattern mask **761** on the first surface **714** of the body **710**, a material **762** for the light reflection pattern is disposed on the pattern mask **761** as shown in FIG. **13C**. The material **762** for the light reflection pattern is, for example, UV (ultraviolet) curable material which is cured by being subjected to UV beam. The UV curable material **762** may also have properties of liquidity and adhesive.

FIG. **13D** shows a process of filling the openings **761b** with the UV curable material **762**. A scraper **759** is used to spread the disposed UV curable material **762** to fill the openings **761b** with the discretely formed UV curable material **762a**. The scraper **759** moves along the top surface of the pattern mask **761** so that the UV curable material **762a** filled in the openings are leveled with the top surface of the mask body **761a**.

Upon completing the process of filling all the openings **761b** with the UV curable material **762a**, UV beam is radiated over the surface of the pattern mask **761** with the UV curable material **762a** as shown in FIG. **13E**. The UV beam renders the UV curable material **762a** cured so that the openings **761b** are filled with the first cured material **762b**. The UV beam is radiated over the pattern mask **761** to the extent that the first cured material **762b** obtains solidity enough not to be transformed when the pattern mask is removed from the surface of the body **710**.

After forming the first cured material **762b**, the pattern mask **761** is stripped from the first surface **714** of the body **710**. As a result, the first cured material **762b** remaining on the first surface **714** forms multiple dots **762c** on the first surface **714** as shown in FIG. **13F**. The first cured material dots **762c** remain on the first surface **714** without any transformation due to their solidity obtained by being subjected to the first UV beam radiation.

FIG. **13G** shows a process of forming a pattern on the first cured material dots **762c**. In this embodiment, a pattern printer **763** is employed to print a prism pattern on the top surfaces of the respective dots **762c**. The pattern printer **763** has a roller **763a** with a prism pattern **763c** on its surface, a rotator **763b** for rotating the roller **763a**, and a UV beam radiator **763d** for radiating the UV beam. The prism pattern **763c** formed on the surface of the roller **763a** is configured to have prisms with a sawtooth-shaped cross-section.

As being rotated by the rotator **763b**, the roller **763a** proceeds forward along with the pattern printer **763** while pressing the top surfaces of the first cured material dots **762c** with the prism pattern **763c**. As a result, each of the first cured dots **762c** has the same prism pattern on its top surface. The prism pattern of each dot may have multiple prisms each having side surfaces elongated and aligned in a selected direction. These

side surfaces become the light reflecting surfaces of the prism dots of the light reflection pattern (referring to FIGS. 1, 3-5).

The UV beam radiator **763d** moving along with the pattern printer **763** radiates the UV beam on the first cured dots with the prism pattern which still have fluidity. Upon being subjected to the UV beam, the first cured dots with the prism pattern changes to have solidity. As a result, solid prism dots **760** are formed on the surface **714** of the body **710**. The prism dots **760** each have the prism-shaped light reflecting surfaces, and the sizes and positions of the prism dots **760** may vary depending on those of the openings of the pattern mask **761** (referring to FIG. 13B).

FIG. 14A shows a process and apparatus of fabricating the light guide plate according to another embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 14B is a front view of the embodiment taken in direction "A" in FIG. 14A. Referring to FIGS. 14A and 14B, a pattern forming unit **775** is disposed on the top surface of a light guide plate body **710** which is placed on a base **717**. The pattern forming unit **775** has a roller **775a** to be in contact with the surface of the body **710**, a UV curable material dispenser **775b** for discharging UV curable material **770a** on the surface of the roller **775a**, a scraper **775c** for spreading and leveling the UV curable material **770a**, a first UV beam radiator **775d** for generating a first UV beam, and a second UV beam radiator **775e** for generating a second UV beam.

The roller **775a** is made of, for example, elastic material and has prism pattern recesses **775f** each having a prism-shaped bottom. In other words, each of the prism pattern recesses **775f** has on its bottom a prism pattern containing one or more prisms. Each prism of the prism pattern formed on the prism pattern recesses **775f** has side surfaces elongated and aligned in a selected direction. These side surfaces of the prisms are formed corresponding to the light reflecting surfaces of the prism dots of the light reflection pattern (referring to FIGS. 1 and 3-5).

As the roller **775a** rotates to proceed forward on the body **710**, the UV curable material dispenser **775b** discharges the UV curable material **770a** to fill in the prism pattern recesses **775f** on the surface of the roller **775a**. The scraper **775c** disposed next to the UV curable material dispenser has an end portion in contact with the surface of the roller **775a**, so that the scraper **775c** scrapes the UV curable material **770a** dispensed and piled on the surface of the roller **775a**. As a result, the prism pattern recesses **775f** are filled with the UV curable material **770b** having the same surface level as that of the roller **775a**. The UV curable material **770a** dispensed on the roller **775a** but not filled into the recesses **775f** is removed by the scraper **775c** from the surface of the roller **775a**.

The UV curable material **770b** in the prism pattern recesses **775f** are subjected to the first UV beam generated by the first UV beam radiator **775d**. The first UV cured material **770c** gains solidity and loses fluidity by being subjected to the first UV beam to the extent that it has adhesive properties.

As the roller **775a** rotates to proceed forward, the first UV cured material **770c** in the prism pattern recesses **775f** becomes in contact with the surface **714** of the body **710**. Since the first UV cured material **770c** is adhesive, the first UV cured material **770c** is separated from the recesses **775f** and attached on the surface **714** of the body **710**. It should be noted that the first UV cured material **770c** gains adhesive properties by being subjected to the first UV beam to the extent that the adhesive force between the contacting surfaces of the first UV cured material **770c** and the body **710** is greater than the adhesive force between the contacting surfaces of the first UV cured material **770c** and the prism pattern recesses **775f**. Thus, when the first UV cured material **770c** becomes in

contact with the surface **714** of the body **710**, the contacting surfaces of the first UV cured material **770c** and the recesses **775f** are separated from each other and the top surface of the first UV cured material **770c** adheres onto the surface **714** of the body **710**.

The UV cured material **771** attached on the surface **714** of the body **710** is then subjected to the second UV beam generated by the second UV beam radiator **775e**. Upon being subjected to the second UV beam, the UV cured material **771** on the body gains more solidity to become solid prism dots **770**. Thus, the light guide plate body **710** has on its surface a light reflection pattern with the prism dots **770** each having the light reflecting surfaces. In this embodiment, the light reflection pattern is advantageously fabricated on the light guide body **710** in a single process.

FIGS. 15A and 15B are schematic diagrams illustrating a molding process for fabricating a light guide plate according to another embodiment of the present invention. A molding apparatus of the present invention includes an upper mold **782** and a lower mold **784**. The upper and lower molds **782**, **784** are combined together so that an empty space is formed therein. The empty space consists of first and second hollows **785**, **786** for forming a light guide plate body and prism dots of the light guide plate, respectively. In other words, the first hollow **785** has a shape and size identical with those of the light guide plate body, and the second hollow **786** has recesses with the prism pattern identical with that of a light reflection pattern of the light guide plate.

As shown in FIG. 15B, the first and second hollows **785**, **786** in the molding apparatus are filled with indurative material **787**, for example synthetic resin, provided through an inlet **788** of the molding apparatus. Once the resin is completely filled in the hollows **785**, **786**, the upper and lower molds **782**, **784** are separated to produce a light guide plate with a light reflection pattern integrally formed thereon. Since the recesses of the second hollow **786** have the prism pattern, the prism dots of the light guide plate molded by the lower mold **784** have the same prism pattern on their surfaces.

There are advantages in this embodiment such that the molding process of the present invention allows of mass production of the light guide plate and facilitates fabrication of the light guide plate with highly complex shapes of the light reflection pattern.

FIG. 16 a schematic diagram illustrating a backlight assembly according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 16, the parts equivalent to those shown in FIG. 1 are represented with like reference numbers and description thereof is omitted to avoid duplication.

The backlight assembly **800** has a light guide plate **700** with a body **710** and a light reflection pattern **720**, a light source **810**, and a receiving container **820**. The light source for providing light to the light guide plate **700** is, for example, a light emitting diode or a discharge lamp. In this embodiment, a cold cathode fluorescent lamp with a cylindrical shape is employed to provide the light to the light guide plate **700**. The receiving container **820** may have any shape appropriate for receiving the light guide plate **700** and the light source **810** therein. The receiving container **820** has side surfaces connected to the bottom to provide a receiving space in which the light guide plate **700** and the light source **810** are installed to be stationary.

The backlight assembly **800** may further include a reflection plate **830** under the light guide plate **700** and/or a diffusion sheet **840** above the light guide plate to improve use efficiency of the light. The reflection plate **830** reflects light leaked from the first surface **714** of the light guide plate **700** toward the light guide plate **700**. The diffusion sheet **840**

makes distribution of the light from the second surface 716 of the light guide plate 700 uniform so that light with uniform distribution is provided to a display panel (not shown). It should be noted, however, that the backlight assembly of the present invention may provide the light with the substantially same uniform distribution even in the absence of the diffusion sheet 840 because the light exiting the light guide plate of the present invention is substantially perpendicular to the second surface 716 owing to the light reflection pattern 720.

FIGS. 17A and 17B are graphs showing luminance on the second surface 716 of the light guide plate 700 in FIG. 16. The luminance measured on the light guide plate in the X-direction (referring to FIG. 6) is shown in FIG. 17A, and the luminance measured on the light guide plate in the Y-direction (referring to FIG. 6) is shown in FIG. 17B. The luminance varies in relation to values of viewing angles and the angle θ_3 of the light reflecting surfaces 722, 724 of the prism dots (referring to FIG. 5).

In FIGS. 17A and 17B, the vertical axis represents values of the luminance, the horizontal axis represents values of the viewing angle, and the different graph lines each represent a different angle between the light reflecting surfaces of the prism dots. In this case, the angle between the light reflecting surfaces varies from about 80° to about 120°, and the luminance becomes maximized at the angle from about 82° to about 84°. In case that the angle between the light reflecting surfaces is smaller than about 80° or larger than about 120°, the luminance becomes too low to be used for appropriate display.

The graphs in FIGS. 17A and 17B show different viewing angles (i.e., the viewing angle in FIG. 17B is narrower than that in FIG. 17A). However, the viewing angles would become substantially same if the light guide plate employs the light reflection pattern shown in FIGS. 8 through 11A.

Luminance on the light guide plate of the present invention is compared with that on conventional light guide plates as follows:

TABLE 1

Exemplary Embodiments	Average Luminance
Conventional light guide plate with three diffusion sheets	3458
Conventional light guide plate with one diffusion sheet and one prism sheet	4423
Conventional light guide plate with one diffusion sheet, one prism sheet, and DBEF film	2824
Light guide plate of the present invention with angle 82.5° between the light reflecting surfaces	8709
Light guide plate of the present invention with one diffusion sheet	4950

In Table 1, the “average luminescence” is the average of luminance values measured at twenty-five locations on the light guide plate. As shown in Table 1, the luminance is much higher in the light guide plate of the present invention with angle 82.5° between the light reflecting surfaces than other types of light guide plates. This is because the light reflected by the light reflection pattern exits the surface of the light guide plate at the light emission angle substantially perpendicular to the surface of the light guide plate.

FIG. 18 is a schematic diagram illustrating a light guide plate applicable to the backlight assembly in FIG. 16. The light guide plate 750 in FIG. 18 has a light reflection pattern 780 different from the light reflection pattern 720 in FIG. 16. The light reflection pattern 780 has prism dots of which size and density vary depending on an area of the light guide plate

750. In this embodiment, for example, the sizes of the prism dots vary such that the closer a prism dot is to the light source 810, the smaller the prism dot is, and that the more distant a prism dot is from the light source 810, the larger the prism dot is. Also, the density of the prism dots on the light guide plate 750 varies such that the density of the prism dots in an area of the light guide plate 750 becomes higher as the area is located farther from the light source 810. In other words, the size of a prism dot is proportional to the distance between the prism dot and a light incident surface of the light guide plate 750, and the density of the prism dots in an area of the light guide plate 750 is also proportional to the distance between the area and the light incident surface.

Such configuration of the light reflection pattern 780 reduces luminance variation of the light provided by the light guide plate 750. Thus, the light guide plate 750 advantageously provides the light having uniform distribution.

FIG. 19 shows a light guide plate applicable to a backlight assembly having multiple light sources according to another embodiment of the present invention. As shown in FIG. 19, the light guide plate 900 has two light incident surfaces 902, 904 onto which light is provided from the two light sources 805, 808, respectively. In this case, the quantity of light supplied from the first and second light sources 805, 808 vary depending on the location of an area in the light guide plate 900. In other words, the closer is an area on the light guide plate 900 to either the first or second light source, the greater is the quantity of light at the area. In like manner, the closer is an area on the light guide plate to the center of the light guide plate, the less is the quantity of light at the area. Such differences of the light quantity in different areas may cause luminance variation of the light provided from the light guide plate 900.

The light guide plate 900 in FIG. 19 prevents such and similar problems by compensating the luminance variation. The light guide plate 900 has a light reflection pattern 920 with prism dots of which sizes and density vary depending on an area in the light reflection pattern 920. In this embodiment, for example, the sizes of the prism dots vary such that the closer is a prism dot to either the first or second light source, the smaller the prism dot is, and that the more distant is a prism dot from both the first and second light sources 805, 808, the larger the prism dot is. Also, the density of the prism dots of the light reflection pattern 920 varies such that the closer is an area of the light reflection pattern 920 to either the first or second light source, the lower is the density of the prism dots at the area. As a result, the prism dots at the center between the light sources 805, 808 have the largest size and the highest density. Such configuration of the light reflection pattern 920 prevents or reduces the luminance variation between the side and central areas of the light guide plate 900.

FIG. 20 illustrates a backlight assembly according to another embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, two light sources 806, 807 are disposed to provide light to all the side surfaces of a light guide plate 930, and a light reflection pattern 940 is formed on the surface of the light guide plate 930 to optimize the light provided from the light sources 806, 807.

The first and second light sources 806, 807 each have at least one bent portion (here, for example, an L-shaped bent portion) to cover all the side surfaces of the light guide plate 930. Where the light guide plate 930 has four side surfaces, the first light source 806 provides the light incident onto two side surfaces of the light guide plate 930, and the second light source 807 provides the light incident onto the other two side surfaces of the light guide plate 930. Assuming that the light guide plate 930 has no light reflection pattern, the luminance

is not uniform in the light guide plate **930**. The luminance at the central area is lower than that at the marginal area of the light guide plate **930**.

The light reflection pattern **940** is configured to compensate such luminance variation in the light guide plate **930**. As shown in FIG. **20**, prism dots of the light reflection pattern **940** have different sizes such that the closer is a prism dot to one of the side surfaces, the smaller the prism dot is. In like manner, the closer is a prism dot to the center of the light guide pattern, the larger the prism dot is. The largest dot may be formed at the center of the light guide plate **930**. Accordingly, the density of the prism dots at an area closer to the center of the light guide plate **930** is higher than that at an area closer to the first or second light source. The light reflection pattern **940** prevents or reduces luminance variation between the central and marginal areas of the light guide plate **930**.

FIG. **21** is an exploded perspective view of a liquid crystal display (LCD) device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The LCD device **1000** employs a back light assembly **1800** which may be one of the embodiments shown in FIGS. **16** through **20**. The LCD device **1000** also includes an LCD panel assembly **1600**, a light guide plate **1700**, a receiving container **1820**, and a diffusion sheet **1840**. The receiving container **1820** receives a bottom chassis **1825** that receives a light source **1810** and a reflection plate **1830**.

The LCD panel assembly **1600** is disposed on a middle chassis **1500** over the backlight assembly **1800** and includes an LCD panel **1650** and a drive module **1690**. Electrical signals with image information are provided to the LCD panel assembly **1600** and images are displayed on the LCD panel **1650**. For this image display, the LCD panel **1650** includes a TFT (thin film transistor) substrate **1610**, a liquid crystal layer **1630**, and a color filter substrate **1620**, and the TFT substrate **1610** is connected with the driver module **1690**.

The driver module **1690** includes a printed circuit board (PCB) **1680** and a tape carrier package **1670**. The PCB **1680** has a function of transforming signals externally provided into image signals to be displayed on the LCD panel **1650** by means of the components of the LCD device. For example, the tape carrier package **1670** provides the TFT substrate **1610** with the timing signals from the PCB **1680** in accordance with a certain timing scheme.

The LCD panel **1650** is disposed on the middle chassis **1500** in such a manner that it is movable in the vertical direction but unmovable in the horizontal direction with respect to the backlight assembly **1800**. The LCD panel **1650** also includes a fragile substrate (e.g., glass substrate) that may be damaged by an external impact. Thus, a chassis **1300** is employed in the LCD device to protect the LCD panel **1650** from an external impact and secure the LCD panel **1650** on the backlight assembly **1800**. The chassis **1300** includes a pressing surface **1310** for securing the LCD panel **1650** on the backlight assembly **1800** by pressing down the edge of the LCD panel **1650** and a fixing surface **1320** for fixing the pressing surface **1310** onto the receiving container **1820**. For example, the fixing surface **1320** is assembled with the receiving container **1820** by means of a hook connection.

While the invention has been described with reference to the preferred embodiments, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted for elements thereof without departing from the scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications may be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of the invention without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that the invention may not be limited to the particular embodiment disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out this

invention, but that the invention will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the intended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A light guide plate comprising:
 - a light incident surface for receiving light; and
 - first and second light emission surfaces for emitting light; wherein the first emission surface includes a plurality of circular cylinder-shaped protrusions having grooves.
2. A light guide plate comprising:
 - a light incident surface for receiving light;
 - first and second light emission surfaces for emitting light at a first light emission angle with respect to the first and second light emission surfaces;
 - a protrusion part formed as a column shape on the first light emission surface; and
 - a light reflection pattern formed on an upper surface of the protrusion part, for reflecting light toward the second light emission surface, the light reflection pattern having a cross-sectional profile of a plurality of V-shaped grooves, wherein each of the V-shaped grooves are elongated in a specific direction, the direction aligned substantially parallel with the light incident surface and each of the plurality of V-shaped grooves is disposed adjacent to another V-shaped groove.
3. The light guide plate of claim 2, wherein the protrusion parts are formed integrally with the first light emission surface.
4. The light guide plate of claim 2, wherein the protrusion part includes a plurality of protrusion parts and the protrusions are positioned with different densities at different areas on the first light emission surface such that a density of the protrusion parts increase as a distance from the light incident surface increases.
5. The light guide plate of claim 4, wherein the protrusion parts have different sizes such that a size of the protrusion parts increases as a distance from the light incident surface increases.
6. The light guide plate of claim 4, wherein the protrusion parts have a substantially identical size, and a number of the protrusion parts at a unit area closer to the light incident surface is smaller than a number of the protrusion parts at a unit area farther from the light incident surface.
7. A light guide plate comprising:
 - a light incident surface for receiving light;
 - first and second light emission surfaces for emitting light; and
 - a light reflection pattern formed on the first light emission surface, for reflecting light toward the second light emission surface, the light reflection pattern including a plurality of dots, wherein the dots each have light reflecting surfaces elongated in a selected direction, wherein adjacent ones of the light reflecting surfaces meet each other at elongated edges of the adjacent light reflecting surfaces to form an angle between the adjacent reflecting surfaces.
8. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the angle between the adjacent reflecting surfaces is in a range from about 80° to about 120°.
9. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the angle between the adjacent reflecting surfaces is in a range from about 82° to about 84°.
10. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflecting surfaces are aligned in a direction parallel with the light incident surface.
11. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflecting surfaces each have at least one bent portion.

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12. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflecting surfaces are formed on the surface of the dots in a concave shape.

13. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflecting surfaces are formed on the surface of the dots in a convex shape.

14. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the dots of the light reflection pattern are formed integrally on the first light emission surface.

15. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the dots of the light reflection pattern are formed on a separate sheet attached on the first light emission surface.

16. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflection pattern is made of material having a refraction index same as that of material of a body of the light guide plate.

17. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the light reflection pattern has different densities of the dots at different areas on the first light emission surface such that the closer is an area of the light reflection pattern to the light incident surface, the lower is a density of the dots at the area.

18. The light guide plate of claim 17, wherein the dots have different sizes such that the more distant is a dot from the light incident surface, the larger is the dot.

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19. The light guide plate of claim 17, wherein the dots have a substantially identical size, and a number of the dots at a unit area closer to the light incident surface is smaller than a number of the dots at a unit area farther from the light incident surface.

20. The light guide plate of claim 7, wherein the dots of the light reflecting pattern include first dots having the light reflecting surfaces aligned in a first direction and second dots having the light reflecting surfaces aligned in a second direction.

21. The light guide plate of claim 20, wherein the first direction is parallel with the light incident surface and the first and second directions are perpendicular to each other.

22. The light guide plate of claim 20, wherein the first direction is parallel with the light incident surface and the second direction is one of random directions independent of the first direction.

23. The light guide plate of claim 20, wherein the first dots are arranged in a matrix form, and the second dots are each interposed between adjacent ones of the first dots. _pg.44

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